

**Question for written answer P-003393/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE) and Ska Keller (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Turkish justice system: the case of the Çarşı group

The trial in Istanbul of 35 members of Çarşı, a fan group for Beşiktaş football club, began on 16 December 2014. The defendants are charged with attempting to overthrow the government.

Çarşı took part in the summer 2013 anti-government protests, which were triggered by opposition to an urban development plan for Gezi Park.

The indictment seeks aggravated life sentences for the 35 protesters as they are accused of attempting to stage a coup during the Gezi Park protests. They also face the additional charges of 'being members of an armed group', 'resisting public officials', 'staging demonstrations in violation of the law' and 'possessing unlicensed weapons'.

Is the Commission aware of the trial and the charges faced by Çarşı? Would it consider sending a representative to the second hearing of the trial scheduled for 2 April 2015?

Leading NGOs have expressed concern over the misuse of the criminal justice system. Has the Commission observed a decline in the Turkish legal system?

Given that the application of Chapters 23 and 24 of the acquis on judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security continues to encounter political blocks, how does the Commission intend to regain its leverage to encourage reforms in these key areas in line with the EU acquis?