

**Question for written answer P-015273/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Arrest of journalists in Turkey

According to European and international press reports, the Cumhuriyet editor-in-chief Can Dündar and his bureau chief Erdem Gül were arrested by Turkish police on 26 November on charges relating to the scandal arising from their revelations concerning the supply by Turkey and its MIT intelligence service of weapons to the Islamic State in January 2015.

It appears from the reports that President Erdogan himself has threatened the two journalists.

This is not the first time that the Turkish Government has acted in this way, having come under fire last January in a European Parliament resolution 'on freedom of expression in Turkey: Recent arrests of journalists, media executives and systematic pressure against media'.

Given that Turkey is currently in the process of EU accession:

- Does the Commission regard the arrest of journalists as being in line with EU principles and values regarding freedom of the press?
- What action will the Commission take to secure the release of journalists and put an end to such attempt to muzzle the press?
- Does the Commission consider that Turkey is, in this way, jeopardising its EU accession prospects?