

**Question for written answer P-006145/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Muzzling of the press in Turkey

Recent developments in Turkey, with the attempts of the Erdogan regime to undermine the rule of law in a disproportionate reaction to the failed coup attempt, which it is thereby seeking to exploit, are a cause for great concern. The statements made by the Turkish Prime Minister regarding the reintroduction of the death penalty and the humiliating treatment of the coup leaders are indicative of future intentions. Amnesty International recently revealed that government has suspended the licences of radio and television broadcasters, many journalists have had their press cards cancelled and access to more than 20 news websites has been arbitrarily blocked in yet another move by Erdogan to muzzle the press¹. It is no secret, moreover, that journalists were clearly hesitant to criticise in the country's leadership even before the attempted coup, for fear of prosecution by the authorities².

In view of this:

1. What action does the Commission intend to take in response to attempts to silence the press in Turkey?
2. Does Turkey currently meet the requirements of Articles 2 and 49 TEU that are necessary for it to be considered an applicant for EU membership?

¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/07/turkey-media-purge-threatens-freedom-of-expression/>

² <https://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/den-eisai-dikos-toys-eisai-ehthros-toys>.