

**Question for written answer P-007126/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Daniele Viotti (S&D)**

Subject: Ban on LGBTI cultural activities in Turkey

On 19 November 2017, Ankara City Governor's Office declared it had banned all cultural events linked to the LGBTI movement, invoking 'public order' issues and the fear of 'provoking a backlash from some parts of society'.

This is the latest in a long series of attacks on the activities of the Turkish LGBTI community (for example, the prohibition of the Pride event in Istanbul).

Relations between the EU and Turkey are very close and Turkey enjoys candidate status. EU accession involves sharing certain values and recognising certain rights, including freedom of assembly and association (Article 12 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights) and the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation (Article 21 of the Charter).

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of the most recent measures aimed at reducing the freedom of expression of the LGBTI community in Turkey?
- What measures does it intend to take to protect the Turkish LGBTI community from these discriminatory measures?