

**Question for written answer P-000310/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Attacks against the Turkish Cypriot newspaper 'Afrika' incited by Erdoğan

On the occasion of the launch of the Turkish operation against Kurdish fighters in the city of Afrin, Syria, on 21.1.2018 the newspaper 'Afrika' published a front page with the headline 'Another Occupation by Turkey'.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan described 'Afrika' as 'a cheap and nasty newspaper', criticised its headline, and called on Turkish Cypriots to 'give the necessary response to this'.

Immediately a wave of intimidation was unleashed by Turkish Cypriots and Turkish settlers outside the newspaper's offices seeking to form a blockade. According to reports, protesters dismantled the sign bearing the name 'Afrika', threw stones and eggs against the newspaper building, broke windows trying to enter the building and hung flags of Turkey and the puppet state from the building.

Unfortunately, it is not the first time that the Turkish President and the Turkish authorities have tried to put pressure on Turkish Cypriot journalists and to suppress freedom of the press.

Will the Commission say:

- Is it aware of this recent attack on the press by the President of Turkey?
- After the repeated findings of a serious setback in the area of freedom of expression and press freedom, what steps does the EU intend to take to press Turkey to uphold human rights?