

**Question for written answer P-005174/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Csaba Molnár (S&D)

Subject: Restrictions on the freedom of assembly in Hungary

The Democratic Coalition, a Hungarian opposition party, organised a demonstration for 8 October 2018 against the meeting between Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Viktor Orbán in Budapest. The location for the demonstration was given on the application for official authorisation as the car park in front of the building of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, since Hungarian President János Áder was meeting President Erdogan in the main hall there. The police refused permission for the demonstration on the grounds that an internationally-protected person was arriving at the location chosen by the opposition party. This was in spite of the fact – as noted by a number of journalists – that a demonstration by pro-Erdogan Turks was held just a few metres from the site requested by the Democratic Coalition. On 1 October 2018 the new law on assembly, approved by the Hungarian Parliament, came into force. This replaced the effective, efficient law which had been in force for several decades. The right to assembly is a fundamental human right and is supported by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In the light of the above, I would like to ask the Commission the following:

Does it agree that the Hungarian law on assembly is not compatible with the standards set down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union?

Does it consider as lawful the refusal to allow a demonstration against the Turkish President, who disregards Europe's values and is building a dictatorship, whilst a demonstration in favour of Erdogan at the same location is not deemed unlawful?

Will the Commission launch an investigation into the Hungarian law on assembly?