

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0979/04  
by Luigi Vinci (GUE/NGL)  
to the Council

Subject: Instructions from the Army High Command in Turkey

In January, with the subsequent approval of Military Headquarters, the Army High Command in Turkey instructed its own intelligence services and provincial governments to gather information on members of the public and organisations in favour of Turkey entering the European Union, in favour of the United States or with Satanist and Masonic links and on Internet groups, minorities, children of well-off families, etc. In the High Command's view, all such persons and organisations could become involved in separatist or subversive activities.

This initiative has been fiercely criticised in the Turkish press.

Despite the brutally anti-democratic nature of this intrusion, which is hostile to Turkey's entry to the European Union and, furthermore, is in breach of Turkish law, The Turkish Government does not appear to have raised any objections.

What are the Council's views on this matter, and what action does it intend to take in response to this behaviour with a view to upholding the Copenhagen principles in general and to facilitating the democratisation process within Turkey agreed between the Turkish Government and the European Union?