

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2017/05

by Ioannis Varvitsiotis (PPE-DE) and Georgios Papastamkos (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Human rights in Turkey

One of the legitimate objections to the process of Turkey's accession to the European Union is the lack of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in that country. One example is Turkey's apparent refusal, judging from statements made by leading Turkish statesmen and politicians, to comply with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (see, for example, the judgment in case number 46221/99, *Öcalan v. Turkey*).

Will the Commission say:

1. Is such a refusal by a candidate for accession consistent with the Community acquis, according to which 'The Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States' (Article 6(1) of the Treaty on European Union)?
2. Is such a refusal compatible with the principle laid down in the Treaty on European Union (Article 6(2)), according to which 'The Union shall respect fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, as general principles of Community law'?
3. In view of the fact that 'Fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, shall constitute general principles of the Union's law' (Article I-9, paragraph 3, of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe), what action will the Commission take?