

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2736/09  
by Mogens Camre (UEN)  
to the Commission

Subject: Electoral fraud in Turkey

The local elections held in Turkey on Sunday, 29 March were marred by many instances of electoral fraud, according to Danish observers.

According to the international media, five people were killed and 93 injured in the context of the elections even before polling closed at 5 p.m. Lars A. Rasmussen, a Danish observer who is a member of the Copenhagen city council, described the way in which the elections were run as 'completely absurd'. There was a massive police presence everywhere and the atmosphere was threatening, according to the observer.

The ruling AKP party used public transport to take voters to meetings of the party, which officials were forced to attend under duress, according to the informant.

Another Danish election observer, Serdal Benli, a member of the Danish capital's regional council, reports that the AKP tried to register 18 000 non-existent voters and that 180 voters were registered at a single address which turned out to be a stable.

Could the Commission say, given the many irregularities surrounding these elections, whether it intends to carry out an in-depth study of the conditions under which the elections were held and to decide whether the European Union should declare them to be invalid? Could the Commission also say whether it still considers that conducting accession negotiations with a country whose government resorts to electoral fraud in order to remain in power is in keeping with the principles of the European Union?