

**Question for written answer E-000855/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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**Subject:** Persistent suspicions about breaches of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the Turkish military

Throughout the last few years, the Turkish military has been suspected of having repeatedly made illegal use of chemical weapons in its fight against the Kurdish guerrilla PKK. These suspicious cases, notably the alleged death of 36 Kurdish fighters caused by CS gas between 22 and 24 October in Kazan Vadesi (near Cukaca, province of Hakkari) have increased tensions between the Turks and Kurds. It has been proved that the Turkish military deployed banned chemical weapons in 1999, that it used them for training purposes and that Turkish military leaders have, in the past, given orders for their use. It has also been proved that until 2010 Turkey was storing banned chemical weapons and offering them for sale. There is no documentation pertaining to the destruction of these weapons. On the other hand, the Turkish authorities have reacted in an uncooperative way to initiatives aiming at further investigations.

1. Does the Commission have any information about findings regarding infringements of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the Turkish military?
2. Has the Commission been seeking clarification from the Turkish authorities on findings regarding the storage and deployment of banned chemical weapons?
3. Does the Commission consider respect for the Chemical Weapons Convention a binding condition for the opening of further negotiation chapters?
4. Does the Commission acknowledge the need for the Turkish authorities to permit comprehensive and independent investigations into the suspicious cases described?