

**Question for written answer E-004684/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Barry Madlener (NI)

Subject: Press freedom in Turkey: even worse than in Uganda

1. Is the Commission familiar with the report¹ by the organisation Reporters without Borders according to which Turkey fell 10 places on the 'Press Freedom Index 2011/2012' and now ranks 148th on a list of the 179 countries evaluated?
2. How does the Commission respond to the fact that Turkey scores worse in terms of press freedom than, for instance, Uganda, Colombia and Tunisia?
3. What consequence does the appalling level of press freedom in Turkey have for the accession process?
4. As 'freedom of expression and information'² is one of the most important of the EU's fundamental rights, how can it be that the Commission is boycotting Ukraine, for instance, but is moving forward with accession negotiations with Turkey, a country where dozens of journalists are imprisoned?
5. Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom that, given the fact that Turkey, a candidate country, scores worse and worse each year in the area of press freedom and in the fight against corruption, accession talks should be stopped immediately? If not, why not?

¹ <http://en.rsf.org/press-freedom-index-2011-2012,1043.html>

² http://www.europa-nu.nl/id/viz6c7z6jkza/nieuws/world_press_freedom_day_en?ctx=vim2bzqlxcsy