

**Question for written answer E-005520/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Auke Zijlstra (NI) and Barry Madlener (NI)

Subject: Sakharov prize winner Leyla Zana sentenced to 10 years in prison

In Turkey, Kurdish parliamentarian Leyla Zana has been sentenced to 10 years in prison for 'disseminating propaganda for the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in a series of speeches from 2007 to 2008'. She was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 1995.

1. Is the Commission familiar with the article 'Turkije vonnist Koerdische politica', reporting the conviction of Leyla Zana?¹
2. Does the Commission condemn Leyla Zana's conviction for expressing her opinion? If not, why not?
3. Does the Commission realise that in Turkey, freedom of speech is still under huge pressure?
4. What consequences does the Commission propose that Leyla Zana's sentence should have for the accession negotiations with Turkey?
5. Does the Commission intend to act on Leyla Zana's sentence? If so, what action will it take? If not, why not?

¹ <http://nos.nl/artikel/376434-turkije-vonnist-koerdische-politica.html>.