

**Question for written answer E-006927/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Niki Tzavela (EFD)**

Subject: Spillover in Turkey from Syrian conflict

Turkey's involvement in the war in Syria has led to inevitable fallout and spillover from the conflict taking place on its borders. One of the spillover effects has been the noticeable rise in discrimination against the Alawite communities in Turkey by Sunni extremists who pass back and forth across the Syrian-Turkish border unchecked.

Prime Minister Erdoğan recently inaugurated a new bridge over the Bosphorus, which has been named after Yavuz Sultan Selim, who was notorious for the massacre of Alawites.

As the conflict in Syria evolves, what steps are the Commission and Turkey taking to ensure that the Sunni-Shi'ite conflict is not exacerbated internally in Turkey? How concerned is the Commission about Prime Minister Erdoğan's movement towards political Islam and away from the secular democracy envisaged by Turkey's founder, Kemal Atatürk?