

**Question for written answer E-001101/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Subject: Legislation to censor the internet in Turkey

This week, the Turkish Parliament will vote on proposed legislation to amend the 2007 Regulation of Broadcasts via Internet and Prevention of Crimes Committed through Such Broadcasts (Law No. 5651). Since its introduction in 2007, thousands of websites have been blocked. The new proposal is worrying because it contains unclear definitions, allows for arbitrary decisions and would increase government control over the internet and providers. Freedom of expression, freedom of the media, and the rule of law are already increasingly under threat in Turkey, which remains the biggest jailer of journalists.

1. How does the Commission assess the proposal to amend Law No. 5651?
2. Does the Commission believe that Law No. 5651 would violate the Copenhagen criteria? If not, why not?
3. Does the Commission agree that freedom of expression is increasingly under threat in Turkey? If not, why not?
4. Has the Commission addressed the issues of freedom of expression, freedom of the media in relation to the on-going state crisis, and the lack of respect for the rule of law, in direct talks with the Turkish government recently? If not, when will it do so?