

**Question for written answer E-002377/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Antigoni Papadopoulou (S&D)

Subject: Independence of the judiciary in Turkey

In a recent statement, Amnesty International expressed serious concerns regarding the independence of the judiciary in Turkey, stating, among other things:

'On 15 February, the Turkish parliament adopted legislative amendments that significantly increase the influence of the Minister of Justice within the Higher Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HCJP)... Amnesty International is concerned that amendments relating to the HCJP risk undermining the independence of the judiciary ... by giving the Minister of Justice, as Chair of HCJP, increased powers of appointment and decision making within the body.'

The Commission is asked to reply to the following:

1. Does it share the concerns of Amnesty International on the above subject?
2. Is the new legislation enacted by the Turkish parliament compatible with the *acquis communautaire* and with Turkey's obligations as a candidate country for EU accession?
3. Does the Commission intend to take any action with a view to convincing Turkey to abide by its obligations as a candidate country, as regards the independence of the judiciary?