

**Question for written answer E-003854/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Laurence J.A.J. Stassen (NI)**

Subject: Blocking of YouTube by Erdoğan

Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan has previously announced his intention of further restricting access to social media (see my Question E-002724/2014). He is proving as good as his word: after having blocked access to Twitter<sup>1</sup>, he has now turned his attention to YouTube. Because of audio fragments suggesting that in 2010 Erdoğan deliberately leaked a sex video featuring opposition leader Baykal, YouTube has also been blocked.<sup>2</sup>

1. What view does the Commission take of the blocking of YouTube, a further restriction of freedom of expression? Will it take action in response to it, rather than, as usual, merely expressing its 'concern'? If so, what action? If not, why not?
2. What view does the Commission take of the fact that Erdoğan clearly considers it more important to clean up his own image by bogus means than to guarantee freedom of expression? Does the Commission agree that Erdoğan's action is completely contrary to the so-called 'European standards and values' which Turkey ought, on the contrary, to be respecting as a candidate for accession to the EU?
3. Does the Commission agree that Turkey itself is once again demonstrating that it has absolutely no place in the EU? If not, how does the Commission, in this context, account for the fact that Turkey is constantly regressing and systematically restricting fundamental freedoms?
4. What consequences will the blocking of YouTube have for the accession negotiations between the EU and Turkey? Will the Commission put this endless saga to rest by halting the negotiations once and for all?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.telegraaf.nl/digitaal/22412706/\\_\\_\\_Erdogan\\_blokkeert\\_Twitter\\_\\_\\_html](http://www.telegraaf.nl/digitaal/22412706/___Erdogan_blokkeert_Twitter___html)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nu.nl/tech/3737537/turkije-blokkeert-twitter-youtube.html>