

Question for written answer E-004145/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - The case of Füsün Erdoğan in Turkey

The Turkish-Dutch journalist Füsün Erdoğan has been in prison in Turkey since 2006. In November 2013, she was sentenced to life in prison. She has been charged with leading a terrorist organisation. She is only one of many journalists who are imprisoned in Turkey. Given the increasingly tense and repressive atmosphere in Turkey, the EU needs to invest in promoting and protecting press freedom, freedom of expression and journalists.

1. Is the VP/HR familiar with the case of Füsün Erdoğan?
2. What steps has the VP/HR taken to help imprisoned journalists in Turkey, particularly Füsün Erdoğan?
3. Does the VP/HR intend to address cases such as that of Füsün Erdoğan with the Turkish authorities?
4. Does the VP/HR agree that freedom of the press and freedom of expression are under serious pressure in Turkey? If not, why not?
5. How does the VP/HR plan to promote press freedom and freedom of expression in Turkey in the future?
6. How does the VP/HR hope to protect Turkish journalists in the future and help those who have been imprisoned in the past?