

**Question for written answer E-004291/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Laurence J.A.J. Stassen (NI)

Subject: Prime Minister Erdoğan's ideologue says that the integration of Turkey with the EU is unacceptable (follow-up question)

Hayrettin Karaman, the ideologue selected by Prime Minister Erdoğan and his AK Party, wrote in his column on 13 February 2014 that 'pious Muslims cannot accept the integration of Turkey with the European Union and that opposition to all Christian and Western values are a matter of belief'¹ On 4 April 2014, in answer to Written Question E-002112/2014 regarding Mr Karaman's utterances, Commissioner Füle dismissively stated that 'The Commission does not wish to react to each and every statement published in the press'.

1. What does the Commission mean by saying that it 'does not wish to react to each and every statement published in the press'? When does it react and when does it not? Is the Commission implying that its reaction or absence thereof depends on the substance of the statement (which it may not like)? If not, why is the Commission refusing to react to the utterances by Mr Karaman?
2. Does the Commission doubt the authenticity of the (alleged) utterances by Mr Karaman? If not, is it simply that they do not sit well with the Commission or its cherished 'Turkish accession' project'?

Mr Füle goes on to state 'The Commission noted the commitment to the accession process which Prime Minister Erdoğan confirmed once more during his visit to Brussels ...'.

3. Is the Commission aware that, aside from Mr Erdoğan's confirmed 'commitment to the accession process in Brussels', he has issued other statements (questions for written answer E-009929/2013, E-010872/2012 and E-001041/2013) that are anything but enthusiastic about EU membership, as confirmed by other regrettable developments in Turkey (questions for written answer E-002724/2014, E-000040/2014, E-011263/2013, E-010834/2013 and E-010763/2013). Why is the Commission naively continuing to bury its head in the sand?
4. What are the Commission's grounds for assuming that it can blithely take Mr Erdoğan at his word, given that the utterances by Mr Karaman, his own ideologue, are in stark contrast to Mr Erdoğan's so-called 'commitment to the accession process' referred to by the Commission here?

¹ <http://yenisafak.com.tr/yazarlar/HayrettinKaraman/dostlugun-ve-desteklemenin-sarti/50283>