

**Question for written answer E-013775/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: On halting the broadcast of TV channels in Turkey

Following a legal order from the 'Bureau for Crimes Against the Constitutional Order' of the Ankara Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, seven TV channels have been removed from one of Turkey's leading pay satellite network and TV operators, Digitürk. Turkcell TV+, an online TV streaming service, and Tivibu have announced that they have removed the channels as well. Today, Türksat's digital satellite platform Teledünya has also halted the broadcast of TV channels Bugün TV, Shaber and Samanyolu. The channels in question belong to Koza İpek, Samanyolu Media and Feza Publications, which are long known to have close ties with the Gülen movement, whose members played an active role in restricting media freedom themselves¹.

1. How do these measures relate to the respect for media freedom and the right to receive information, which are part of the Copenhagen criteria?
2. Does the Commission agree that media freedom and respect for human rights are crucial, particularly in the light of upcoming elections?
3. How does the Commission plan to address its concerns to the Turkish authorities regarding the crackdown on Turkish media in the run-up to the snap elections scheduled for 1 November 2015?

¹ <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/childrens-tv-channel-six-others-removed-from-digiturk-platform.aspx>