

**Question for written answer E-000236/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Leyla Zana dismissed from the Turkish Parliament

The Turkish Parliament in its session of 11 January 2018 voted to strip People's Democratic Party (HDP) deputy Leyla Zana of her status as MP.

The official reasoning is that Ms Zana did not take her parliamentary oath in accordance with Article 81 of the Constitution and missed 212 sessions¹. Before taking her parliamentary oath on 17 November 2015, she cheered in Kurdish, 'Long live peace!'

Ms Zana had previously lost her seat as a member of the Turkish Parliament in 1994 after speaking in Kurdish at her oath-swearing ceremony in 1991. She was then sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment, leading to the European Parliament awarding her the Sakharov Prize in 1995.

1. Does the VP/HR intend to make it clear to the Turkish authorities that such actions are not compatible with membership of the European Union?
2. What initiatives does the VP/HR intend to take to stop the ever-increasing violations of human rights and the abuse of the anti-terror laws in Turkey?

¹ <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/turkey/110120181>