

**Question for written answer E-001511/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Statements by President Erdogan on the potential conversion of the Hagia Sophia into a mosque

In the run-up to local elections, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has hinted in his campaign speeches that the Hagia Sophia could be transformed into a mosque.

Much of the European press regards this as a deliberate vote-catching ploy designed to garner the support of ultranationalists and Islamists at the expense of the opposition Republican Party, and takes the view that the Turkish President will likely make good on his 'promise'.

Taking into account Parliament's very recent decision in its annual report on Turkey to oppose any extremist moves to modify the appearance of the Hagia Sophia, a historical and religious monument, and convert it into a mosque,

Will the Commission intervene and immediately condemn these unacceptable statements made by the Turkish President?