

Question for written answer E-003744/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Angelo Ciocca (ID)

Subject: EU funds for study defending Islam

The Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA), based in Ankara, recently published the 'European Islamophobia Report 2018'.

This Turkish think tank, with direct links to President Erdoğan, has produced a report over 800 pages long in which various European countries, including Italy, have been analysed and categorised as 'Islamophobic'.

A large number of Italian press and media bodies, journalists, books and other works are among those attacked, together with, obviously, certain political parties. And yet, right from the very first page, it is clear that the contents of this report are not backed up by any official data.

This study has been generously funded by the European Union through pre-accession funds granted to Turkey as a candidate country.

Freedom of the press and of thought is punished daily in Turkey, as shown by the imprisonment of around 160 journalists and the closure of 130 media outlets, including magazines, daily newspapers, television and radio stations and websites.

Given the above:

- Can the Commission confirm the amount disbursed on production of this publication?
- Would it not agree that the findings of a study produced in a country in which human rights and fundamental freedoms such as freedom of the press are constantly breached, cannot be deemed reliable?