

**Question for written answer E-004555/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: Over 120 journalists still jailed in Turkey

According to a new report by the International Press Institute (IPI), over 120 journalists are still being held in Turkish jails on terrorism-related charges in the wake of the attempted coup. For at least ten years, Turkey has held the global record regarding the number of incarcerated journalists.

The IPI indicates that dozens of journalists have been held for months or even years awaiting trial following very serious accusations of terrorism, although, in many cases, no formal charges have been brought. This is a scandalous infringement of their human rights.

For example, Ahmet Altan, the distinguished writer and journalist, has been rearrested one week after his release from prison, where he was being held for alleged complicity in the failed coup of 2016.

Given that there has been no improvement in the treatment of the media by Turkey:

1. Can the Commission say what action it will take to uphold the fundamental right to freedom of expression in Turkey?
2. How does it intend to make the Turkish authorities refrain from arresting journalists and academics, under antiterrorist legislation where no charges of violence have been brought?