

**Question for written answer E-005786/2020**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Assita Kanko** (ECR)

Subject: Comments by Erdogan concerning the French reaction to the murder of Samuel Paty

The VP/HR has condemned comments by Turkish President Erdogan regarding the mental health of his French counterpart, calling on Turkey to halt what he described as a dangerous downward spiral leading to confrontation.

In recent months, however, it has become clearer than ever that Turkey is out of step with the positive EU agenda and that accession negotiations are therefore no longer in tune with reality.

In view of this:

1. Does the VP/HR agree that EU-Turkey relations are in need of a fundamental strategic overhaul, in line with the more transactional approach being adopted by Turkey for example?
2. Is the VP/HR envisaging an alternative strategy, such as ending pre-accession assistance to Turkey, should it fail to come into line with the positive agenda?
3. Will the VP/HR ensure that EU foreign policy supports the French call to arms against Islamist or any other forms of obscurantism?