

**Question for written answer E-006499/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Harald Vilimsky (ID)

Subject: Ending the accession negotiations and pre-accession assistance for Turkey

Negotiations with Turkey and assistance for Turkey are continuing, in spite of its aggressive behaviour towards critics, neighbouring countries and, ultimately, the whole of the EU.

1. Negotiations with Turkey about potential EU accession have been under way since 2005. Rather than display signs of progress, the country has embarked on a completely different path. How could the Commission allow Turkey to be awarded a total of EUR 416.9 million in 2019 and 2020, in spite of its human rights violations, rule-of-law deficiencies and dramatic restrictions on press freedom and freedom of expression?
2. Does the Commission consider that Turkey's accession to the EU would be financially justifiable, given that offsetting Turkey's economic strength would, according to the Commission's own calculations, cost between EUR 16.5 and 27.5 billion annually but that there would be barely any return, since Turkey would already be integrated in the Union's economy?
3. Does the Commission realise that Turkey would still be an Islamic country, even as a Member State of the EU, and that the European Union would therefore, given the size of that country's population, be sailing under the flag of Islam? And does it realise that this would cause a significant change to the weighting in EU bodies and in EU policy as a whole?