

**Question for written answer E-007069/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Serious threats against Şener Levent, a European Citizen's Prize laureate

Şener Levent, a European Citizen's Prize laureate in 2018, is the target of serious threats from the Turkish Government and its puppet, the administration of occupied Cyprus. On 23 December 2020 he was summoned to appear at a 'court' for a case that was registered in 2019 at the criminal court of first instance of Ankara.

The charges against Mr Levent, which carry a penalty of between one and four years' imprisonment, are linked to three articles he published in the newspaper *Afrika*.

All three actions were registered under the category of insulting President Erdoğan.

In view of the attempt to muzzle and intimidate Şener Levent, and the rights of all citizens to freedom of opinion and expression:

1. Is the Commission aware of these events?
2. What steps is it prepared to take to protect a European citizen, one who has, moreover, been awarded the European Citizen's Prize?