

Question for written answer E-002083/2021

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

Rule 138

Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Incident during the visit of the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission to Turkey

On 6 April 2021, at a meeting at the Turkish presidential palace to discuss the future of EU-Turkey relations, a seat was provided for the President of the European Council on an equal footing with Turkish President Erdoğan, but not for the President of the Commission.

Given President Erdoğan's track record of disdain for women's rights, including Turkey's recent withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, the seating arrangements for this meeting do not seem to be based on the order of precedence required by protocol, but rather on the male chauvinist attitudes of an autocrat.

Will the Commission, in the framework of the elaboration of future EU-Turkey relations, propose making respect for women's rights a binding criterion for future EU-Turkish cooperation?