

**Question for written answer E-002177/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Virginie Joron (ID)

Subject: European report on Islamophobia written by Turkish lobby

The Turkish foundation SETA¹ drafted the 2018 report on Islamophobia for the European Commission^{2,3}. Establishing 'institutes against Islamophobia' and a 'spokesperson for Islamic affairs' in almost every western country is a strategy that is advocated by SETA⁴.

According to the German television channel Deutsche Welle⁵, the foundation is managed by Serhat Albayrak, the elder brother of Berat Albayrak – Erdoğan's son-in-law since 2004 and Turkish Minister of Treasury and Finance until November 2020. It also claims that Serhat Albayrak is Chair of the board of the largest state-controlled media group in Turkey, and that SETA's entire board of directors are close advisers to Erdoğan.

The Commission has confirmed that the report was financed by Brussels (EUR 127 000) and that the Turkish Government had chosen the author⁶. The Commission claims to have verified only the funding procedure.

1. Did the Commission approve the funding without reading the report published in 2019?
2. In the wake of the beheading of school teacher Samuel Paty, will the Commission ask SETA to withdraw the allegations of Islamophobia made against the following French public figures: Ivan Rioufol (p. 345 of the report), Elisabeth Badinter, Zineb El Rhazoui, Alain Finkielkraut, Waleed Al-Husseini (p. 346), Gilles-William Goldnadel (p. 347), Eric Zemmour (p. 348), Jean Messiha (p. 352) and Majid Oukacha (p. 357)?

¹ SETA | Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (setav.org)

² <https://www.valeursactuelles.com/clubvaleurs/monde/finance-par-lue-mais-pilote-par-des-interets-turcs-le-rapport-europeen-sur-lislamophobie-interroge/>

³ https://www.islamophobiaeurope.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/EIR_2018.pdf

⁴ <https://www.valeursactuelles.com/societe/loi-separatisme-la-turquie-prepare-sa-riposte/>

⁵ <https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-whats-next-for-journalism-in-the-erdogan-era/a-49554127-0>

⁶ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-003739_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2019-003735-ASW_EN.html