

**Question for written answer E-003445/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Turkish police use excessive force to break up Pride march in Istanbul

On 26 June 2021, the Turkish police used rubber bullets and fired tear gas to disrupt the annual Pride march in support of LGBTIQ+ rights in Istanbul, thereby intensifying the crackdown on the march at a time of rising government hostility towards LGBTIQ individuals in Turkey¹.

In recent years, the Turkish authorities have consistently suppressed the Pride march. The LGBTIQ equality strategy, which was published by the Commission in November 2020, states that 'LGBTIQ rights are human rights and LGBTIQ people should be able to fully enjoy their rights everywhere, at all times'². The Commission report on Turkey furthermore confirms that hate crimes against and violations of the human rights of LGBTI persons are 'still a matter of serious concern', and that hate speech against LGBTI people is not effectively prosecuted³. Earlier this year, students were arrested for producing artwork with LGBT flags and a student LGBT club was shut down⁴.

1. Is the Commission currently involved in a dialogue with Turkey to address the discriminatory practices against LGBTIQ people?
2. What further steps will it take to address the deteriorating situation of the LGBTIQ community in Turkey?
3. How will these developments impact the process of Turkey's accession to the EU?

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkish-police-fire-tear-gas-disperse-pride-march-istanbul-2021-06-26/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/lesbian-gay-bi-trans-and-intersex-equality/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en

³ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/turkey_report_2020.pdf

⁴ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/18/turkey-student-protesters-risk-prosecution>