

**Question for written answer E-003647/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Continued erosion of the rule of law in Turkey

According to BIA Media Monitoring reports, 222 journalists have been brought before the Turkish courts in the last three months and dozens are still being detained.

It is no longer possible to keep track of conflicts of interest, with media operators eagerly investing in other sectors (energy, tourism, banking),

while those that reveal corruption scandals find themselves facing heavy fines. Furthermore, newspapers are being taken over by the Turkish Government, which, according to various sources, is in control of over 85% of the mainstream media.

It is clear that the rule of law in Turkey has been completely undermined by President Erdoğan, who is closely identified with the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

At the same time, Turkey is extremely dependent on the European Union, given that it provides a market for almost 40% of its exports. On the other hand, European Union production is also reliant on cheap labour in Turkey.

1. What steps has the Commission taken to date to secure the release of journalists being held in Turkish prisons?
2. For which strategic goods and services is the Union reliant on Turkey?
3. Why does the Commission not put a definitive end to accession talks with Turkey?