

**Question for written answer E-004647/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Demetris Papadakis (S&D)

Subject: Turkey denies entry to 42 Turkish Cypriots ruled undesirable

The Avrupa daily newspaper, whose chief editor is Şener Levent, has published a list of 42 Turkish Cypriots who have been refused entry to Turkey.

The list includes Şener Levent himself and Şener Eltil, both of whom have been awarded the European Citizen's Prize by the European Parliament, journalist Ali Kismir, politicians Mustafa Akinci and Murat Kanatli, Selma Eylem, former head of the Turkish Cypriot teachers union, and activist Mine Atli.

This is yet another example of Turkey's disregard for democratic principles such as freedom of expression and free and unhindered movement, as evidenced by acts of intimidation and blatant human rights infringements.

In view of the Turkish Government's attempts to silence dissidents and target critics of Turkey's policies in Cyprus:

1. Can the Commission say whether it is aware of this situation?
2. What measures is it prepared to take to protect the EU citizens in question?