

**Question for written answer E-000801/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ali Kişmir, President of the Turkish Cypriot journalists' trade union, facing years in prison

Ali Kişmir, President of the Turkish Cypriot journalists' trade union, who was recently denied entry by Turkey, now faces the prospect of years in prison in the occupied territories.

Mr Kişmir has been notified by the pseudo-state's 'police force' that he is to face 'trial' on charges relating to an opinion piece written by him, whose publication coincided with the emergence of the new Turkish Cypriot leadership in 2020. In this article, Mr Kişmir was strongly critical of Ankara for its interference in the internal politics of Turkish Cypriots and the 'presidential elections'.

This is another of the repeated attempts by Ankara and its placemen on the island to muzzle the press and intimidate journalists and progressive Turkish Cypriots in breach of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether it is aware of this situation?
2. What steps is it prepared to take to protect journalists in the Turkish-Cypriot community, bearing in mind that they are EU citizens?