

**Question for written answer E-001281/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Eva Kaili (S&D)**

**Subject:** The EU's preferential treatment of Turkey with regard to sanctions against Russia

With the prospect of accession to the EU, countries with candidate status are expected to align their foreign and security policies with those of the EU. Currently, with the EU imposing individual and economic sanctions on Russia for its aggression in Ukraine, the Commission is asking EU partner countries to impose similar sanctions in order to boost the West's response. In this spirit, the Commission has repeatedly called for Serbia, a candidate country since 2012, to follow the EU's lead in imposing sanctions against Russia.

However, although Turkey has also been a candidate country since 1999, Ibrahim Kalin, Turkey's presidential spokesperson, recently admitted that the EU has not requested the country to follow the West's sanctions. Hence the strong economic ties between Russia and Turkey and their decision last year to increase bilateral trade to USD 100 billion mean that the EU's efforts to stop financing Russia's war are being undermined because Turkey is not also imposing sanctions.

Given this:

1. Why has the Commission only requested Serbia, but not Turkey, to impose sanctions on Russia?
2. Are there any plans to pressure Turkey into adopting the EU's sanctions against Russia?