

**Question for written answer E-001577/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Subject: Turkish activist Osman Kavala sentenced to life imprisonment without parole

Turkish activist Osman Kavala was yesterday sentenced to life imprisonment without parole on charges of attempting to overthrow the Turkish Government¹. In December 2019, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled that his arrest and pre-trial detention was ultimately intended to silence and deter other activists and called for his immediate release². In February 2022, the Council of Europe initiated infringement proceedings against Turkey³ for failure to comply with the above judgment. The sentencing of Osman Kavala, which Amnesty International describes as a 'devastating blow' for human rights⁴, comes on top of a series of measures and rulings that testify to the continuing decline in human rights, civil liberties and the rule of law in Turkey (withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention⁵, request by the Turkish Prosecutor General for a total ban on the Democratic Peoples' Party (HDP)⁶, imprisonment of Selahattin Demirtaş in breach of his human rights⁷, etc.).

In view of this:

Can the Commission say what immediate measures it plans to take to ensure respect for the fundamental principles of the rule of law in the case of Osman Kavala?

How will it address the continuing decline in the rule of law in Turkey with regard to not only fulfilment of accession criteria but also compliance with its general framework principles?

¹ <https://www.dw.com/en/turkey-rights-activist-osman-kavala-sentenced-to-life-in-prison/a-61578255>,
<https://www.euronews.com/2022/04/25/osman-kavala-turkish-philanthropist-handed-life-sentence-by-istanbul-court>

² <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22respondent%22%3A%5B%22TUR%22%5D%2C%22documentcollectionid%22%3A%5B%222GRANDCHAMBER%22%2C%22CHAMBER%22%5D%2C%22itemid%22%3A%5B%222001-199515%22%5D%7D>

³ https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680a55b62

⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-turkey-echr-demirtas-idUSKBN28W1PJ>

⁵ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/turkey-conviction-of-osman-kavala-a-devastating-blow-for-human-rights/>

⁶ <https://www.politico.eu/article/turkey-istanbul-convention-council-of-europe-violence-against-women/>

⁷ <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/turkey-moves-to-ban-pro-kurdish-hdp-party/>