

**Question for written answer E-003681/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The case of Apostolos Tzitzikostas in Turkey

On Saturday, 5 November 2022, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions, travelled to İzmir, Turkey to attend a conference as a CoR member. However, upon arrival at the Turkish border, the Vice-President was denied access to the country. In addition, he was forced to wait at the border for several hours while the Turkish authorities decided whether or not to allow him into the country.

In the end, despite being allowed to enter, he decided to return to Greece.

Turkey's decision to deny access to a senior European figure travelling to an international conference on cooperation among regional authorities is a serious and disrespectful act against the European Union as a whole, and sets an unpleasant precedent for relations among representative assemblies.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this incident? What stance does it intend to take in this regard?
2. What action can be taken, including with regard to the Turkish authorities, to prevent such incidents happening again to senior EU figures travelling to Turkey in order to carry out their duties?

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