

**Question for written answer E-004183/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Gianantonio Da Re (ID)

Subject: Attack on democracy in Türkiye - Request for immediate action by the Commission against the sentencing of Ekrem Imamoglu, Mayor of Istanbul

On 14 December 2022, Ekrem Imamoglu, mayor of Istanbul, was sentenced to two years and seven months in prison and banned from politics for that period for insulting public officials in a speech given in 2019 after winning a municipal election. In other words, if the sentence is upheld, he risks being stripped of the office of mayor and denied the possibility of standing in future elections.

The mayor, one of the strongest political opponents of the dictator Erdogan, has described the sentence as unfair and politically motivated. Presidential and parliamentary elections are due to be held in Türkiye in June and Imamoglu has long been mooted as one of Erdogan's challengers.

In view of this and the fact that Erdogan systematically uses false and spurious accusations to target his political rivals:

1. Can the Commission say when it expressed its condemnation of the judgment against Ekrem Imamoglu, Mayor of Istanbul, and in what form?
2. Does it not consider this ruling to be a shameful attack on democracy and the principles of freedom, equality and the rule of law that the European Union has always sought to uphold?

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