

**Question for written answer E-000263/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Eero Heinäluoma (S&D)

Subject: Sentencing of Ekrem İmamoğlu

On 14 December 2022, a Turkish court sentenced Ekrem İmamoğlu, the Mayor of Istanbul and member of the main opposition party (the Republican People's Party), to prison for political remarks made after his election in 2019. The decision effectively bars İmamoğlu from holding political office for two years, seven months and fifteen days.

The conviction constitutes a serious blow to human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in a context of continued judicial harassment. It is also inconsistent with the rights enshrined in Türkiye's constitution and the country's international law obligations and commitments to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Ahead of elections this year, the decision demonstrates the politicisation and lack of independence of the judiciary and endangers the freedom and fairness of the electoral process.

In view of this:

1. Could the Commission outline the amount of EU financial support that Türkiye has received over the past years and the extent to which conditions related to legal reforms, respect for human rights and press freedom were attached?
2. What measures will the Commission take to address the continuous backsliding on human rights and the rule of law?

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