

**Question for written answer E-001389/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Turkish secret services and Turkish influence in Europe, especially in the Grand Est Region

In a written question from 16 June 2022¹, I highlighted that 'the Turkish Government's religious diplomacy also extends to Europe, where Türkiye ranks as the most powerful foreign state actor when it comes to influencing Islamic spiritual affairs'².

In particular, the Council for Justice, Equality and Peace (COJEP International) 'is a very influential organisation in the Grand Est Region' and is purportedly 'regularly involved in the efforts made by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament to combat Islamophobia'³.

Furthermore, according to an article in the French magazine *Le Point* from 8 September 2022, the Turkish intelligence and security agency Milli İstihbarat Teskilati (MIT) 'has, according to a report by the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), hundreds of agents and 6 000 informers' in Europe⁴.

In 2019, a 'secure building complex for consular affairs measuring 9 000 square metres' – the 'largest Turkish consulate in the world' – was reported to have been inaugurated in Strasbourg, just 'a stone's throw away from the Council of Europe'⁵.

Will the Commission investigate Türkiye's strategic influence in the EU and, in particular, the activities of the MIT and the exact purpose of the consulate in Strasbourg?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-9-2022-002162_EN.html

² 'The diplomacy of mosques', *Courrier International*, 9 June 2022.

³ '[...] COJEP International is a very influential organisation in the Grand Est Region which is regularly involved in the efforts made by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament to combat Islamophobia.'

⁴ 'According to a report by the German Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution (BfV), the MIT has hundreds of agents and 6 000 informers on European soil', 'Turkish Secret Service: A State within the State', *Le Point*, 8 September 2022.

⁵ 'In 2019, Türkiye inaugurated a secure building complex for consular affairs measuring 9 000 square metres – the largest Turkish consulate in the world – in Strasbourg, just a stone's throw away from the Council of Europe.'