

**Question for written answer E-001398/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

François Alfonsi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Threats to the rule of law and fundamental rights in Greece

A delegation of Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs visited Greece from 6 to 8 March 2023 and identified very serious threats to the rule of law and fundamental rights. In its annual report for 2021, the Racist Violence Recording Network reported that 72 incidents of racist violence had occurred between January and December 2021. These targeted migrants, refugees, or asylum seekers, and the attacks included incidents against individuals considered 'less' Greek.

The Turkish community in Western Thrace is a native minority community which faces systematic discrimination in politics and the media. The Turkish Syriza MP for Xanthi, Hüseyin Zeybek, received death threats and was accused of being a 'spy of the Turks' during a live broadcast of 'Anihti Grami' (Open Line) on the local television channel Next TV on 12 September 2022.

1. What steps does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the rule of law and protect the fundamental rights of persons from different backgrounds against hate speech and hate-motivated attacks in Greece?
2. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that European citizens belonging to the Turkish community in Western Thrace are protected from discrimination and hatred in their own country, Greece?

Submitted: 27.4.2023