

**Question for written answer E-002374/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Gianantonio Da Re (ID)**

Subject: Clarifications on strengthening international cooperation between the EU and Türkiye

According to press reports, at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 20 July 2023, EU ministers apparently said that there was a reciprocal interest in developing a stronger relationship between the EU and Türkiye. High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell stated, 'there is a reciprocal interest to develop a stronger relationship between Turkey and the European Union'.

The latest Italian elections were deemed unfair: the government put constant pressure on the media and human rights defenders, and fundamental freedoms were undermined. Bearing that and the discussions at the Council meeting in mind, does the Commission not think that, rather than supporting stronger international cooperation between the EU and Türkiye, the EU should be definitively suspending all forms of cooperation with an anti-democratic country like Türkiye?

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