

ORAL QUESTION H-0503/07

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2007  
pursuant to Rule 109 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Feleknas Uca  
to the Commission

Subject: Dismissal of Mayor Demirbas and dissolution of the Sur Municipal Council in response to the municipal council's decision to provide multilingual municipal services for local people

On 5 January 2007 the Turkish Ministry of the Interior called on the State Council to dismiss Mayor Demirbas and dissolve the Sur Municipal Council in response to the municipal council's decision to provide multilingual municipal services for local people. The State Council has since voted in favour of the dismissal of Mr Demirbas.

How does the Commission assess the local legal and administrative context in which the Ministry of Interior's action to dismiss the mayor and dissolve the council was taken?

What impact does the Commission think the action taken by the Turkish Ministry of the Interior will have on local efforts to promote democracy and cultural freedoms in the region and in Turkey?

To what extent, in the Commission's view, does the situation reflect disregard for the principles of democratisation and respect for human rights and cultural freedoms that are not only promoted by the Council of Europe, but also officially endorsed by the Turkish Government through European documents such as the Charter of Local Self-Government?

What action does the Commission plan to take in response to the legal, administrative and psychological pressure currently being exerted on mayors from the Democratic Turkey Party (DTP) and the rising political tension in the region?

Tabled: 26.06.2007  
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