

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1400/01
by Christos Zacharakis (PPE-DE)
to the Council

Subject: Situation in Turkish prisons

In its resolution of 18 January 2001 Parliament called on the Turkish authorities to take the necessary legal and administrative measures forthwith to put an end to the dire situation in Turkish prisons, and urged Turkey to respect its obligations as a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights and the international conventions on torture. Three months on, however, the situation has deteriorated. According to reliable information, 49 people have died, dozens have suffered permanent damage to their health, and the number on hunger strike has risen to 2000.

Given that Parliament's appeal to the Turkish Government and the Council of Europe's representations have been ignored, what immediate measures will the Council take to make it clear to Turkey that respect for human rights and the rule of law are a condition of any cooperative relations between that country and the European Union?