

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1384/03  
by Gian Gobbo (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Turkish occupation of Iraqi Kurdistan

Following the outbreak of war in Iraq, Turkey has announced its intention of sending troops to occupy a 20-kilometre zone inside Iraqi Kurdistan, which enjoys semi-autonomous status. The NATO authorities have agreed to this decision.

This military occupation – ostensibly on humanitarian grounds – is opposed by the Kurdish population and its political representatives, who have clearly rejected it on several occasions and plan to use armed resistance.

- What is the Commission's position on what is yet another show of force by Turkey?
- Could the presence of Turkish troops in Kurdistan not be a prelude to an annexation of territory there?
- Does the Commission not think that such behaviour on the part of Turkey is incompatible with its status of an applicant country for accession to the EU?