

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1398/07  
by Feleknas Uca (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Poisoning of Abdullah Öcalan

On 1 March, lawyers for Abdullah Öcalan announced the results of laboratory tests on his hair, according to which values for strontium and chromium are markedly higher than normal. The specialist laboratory judged the concentration level to be an indication of chronic poisoning.

Does the Commission think that it should look into this and send an independent medical commission to Imrali to conduct more extensive tests so as to obtain more precise information?

How does the Commission intend to persuade Turkey to comply with its obligations concerning the banning of torture and human rights agreements?

Does the Commission realise how socially and politically explosive it would be in Turkey if Abdullah Öcalan died or his health were at risk? Escalation with regard to the Kurdish question would be unavoidable, and Europe would not escape the consequences of that either.

How does the Commission intend to persuade Turkey to enter into a dialogue with the representatives of the Kurds? Now in particular, given the PKK's declaration of a unilateral cease-fire and the expressions of political goodwill by the PKK and/or its successor organisation, there is an opportunity to launch a dialogue for peace.

Is the Commission making efforts and/or plans to act as mediator in this conflict?