

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0207/09
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to the Council

Subject: Gaza War - Turkey's role and negotiations with Hamas

Turkey has traditionally been one of Israel's strategic partners. At the same time, however, it is also the only NATO country to maintain contacts with Hamas. In view of the war in Gaza, Turkey has put itself forward as a potential leader of an international peace-keeping force. The EU's foreign policy representative Javier Solana has said that Turkey has a key role to play. The Egyptian-French ceasefire initiative also depends on Turkish support.

What role can Turkey play in this conflict? What consultation and coordination mechanisms has the Council set up within the framework of the Troika with a view to cooperating with Turkey in this crisis area? To what extent can the Council actively involve Turkey, as a partner and EU candidate country, with a view to a peace or donor conference for Gaza? What is the Council's standpoint on the possibility of a Turkish-led UN force?

Does the Council believe that a ceasefire for Gaza can be achieved without holding a dialogue with Hamas? Can the Council take up a position on calls for Hamas to be removed from the terror list? To what extent would Hamas, which is on the EU terror list, be acceptable to the Council as a negotiating partner? Could the channels that currently exist between Turkey and Hamas prove useful with a view to a ceasefire in Gaza?