

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0208/09
by Harald Ettl (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Local elections in Turkey/Ergenekon

Local elections will be held in Turkey on 29 March 2009.

1. Is the Commission aware that, according to the Supreme Election Board (YSK), the number of people eligible to vote in Turkey has risen by 5.6 million since the last parliamentary elections in 2007, and neither the current electoral registers nor the population statistics contain reliable data? This also adds strength to the suspicion that the most recent parliamentary elections, which have often been called into question, did not produce reliable results.
2. Is it also aware that, as part of investigations into the 'Ergenekon' case in the run-up to the local elections, the government's harshest critics – including journalists, writers, university professors, etc. – are being arrested and interrogated under inhuman conditions on suspicion of belonging to the secret organisation 'Ergenekon'?

Will the Commission send election observers to Turkey in connection with the problems raised in point 1 above in order to restore public confidence in the election process and prevent election fraud, and is the Commission aware that the actions mentioned in point 2 above are not in any way compatible with EU principles, fundamental rights and democracy?