

**Question for written answer P-009674/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Eleni Theocharous (PPE)

Subject: Arrest of a former Republic of Cyprus finance minister in the occupied part of Cyprus

The former Republic of Cyprus finance minister Michalis Sarris was arrested on Thursday, 13 October 2011 in occupied Nicosia on charges of homosexuality. Since then he has been held by the illegal Turkish Cypriot 'authorities'. As made clear by the fourth inter-state appeal by Cyprus against Turkey under international legislation and international law, the Turkish Cypriot authorities are subordinate to Turkey. Under Turkish legislation, homosexuality is still prosecuted as a crime.

Will the Commission take appropriate steps and make appropriate representations vis-à-vis Turkey to secure the immediate release of the former minister, who has been charged with homosexuality, and to guarantee respect for the human rights of European and Turkish citizens regardless of their sexual orientation?