

**Question for written answer P-014369/2013  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Emine Bozkurt (S&D)**

**Subject:** Situation of Turkish citizens under the EU-Turkey readmission agreement

The EU-Turkey readmission agreement which was signed on 16 December 2013 in Ankara has been greeted with great enthusiasm, as this date also marks the official start of the visa liberalisation dialogue with the signature of the agreement protocol which will lead to the lifting of visa restrictions within 3 and a half years. Yet there is unrest among some Turkish nationals living in EU Member States caused by lack of information as to how the readmission agreement will affect their situation. While the agreement explicitly states that those who fall under the scope of the agreement are 'persons who do not or who no longer, fulfil the conditions for entry to, presence in, or residence on the territories of Turkey or one of the Member States of the Union' there is uncertainty as to the fate of those Turkish citizens who are in between residence permits.

1. How will the Commission safeguard the residence of Turkish citizens and their families whose residence permits have expired but who are in the process of obtaining new residence permits?
2. How will the Commission make sure that Turkish citizens legally resident in an EU Member State and who have been sentenced for a petty crime are not returned to Turkey based on the readmission agreement with the claim that they no longer fulfil the criteria of being legally resident?