

**Question for written answer P-000195/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Christine De Veyrac (PPE)**

Subject: Turkey - violations of the rule of law

The political and financial scandals which have been causing so much controversy in Turkey since November 2013 have led to unprecedented purges by the government of the Turkish police and judiciary, leading members of which have been accused of not informing the political authorities about ongoing investigations.

This atmosphere of intimidation and victimisation is undermining rule of law and the separation of powers, values which are fundamental to European integration.

Under the circumstances, it is astonishing that the European Council, the Council, the High Representative and the European Commissioner for Enlargement should have made no comment on this matter, even though the police and judiciary first came under fire in November 2013. The only response so far has come from a humble Commission spokesperson, on 8 January 2014.

This embarrassing state of affairs can be explained by the EU's nonsensical decision of 22 October 2013 to open a new negotiation chapter with the Turkish Government, thus relaunching the accession negotiations.

In the light of the decisions taken by the Turkish Government, which threaten the independence of the judiciary and the impartiality of police investigations, does the Commission intend to condemn what is happening in Turkey? Given that the country is clearly increasingly prepared to disregard principles fundamental to the rule of law, does the Commission intend to respond by suspending the current accession negotiations with Turkey, in accordance with the wishes of millions of EU citizens?