

**Question for written answer P-002292/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sophocles Sophocleous (S&D)

Subject: Arrest of Murat Kanatli

On 25 February 2014, Murat Kanatli, Secretary of the Turkish Cypriot New Cyprus party and board member of the European Bureau for Conscientious Objection (EBCO), was sentenced by the illegal regime to 10 days detention in a military prison in occupied Nicosia for his refusal, as a conscientious objector to take part in annual compulsory military exercises in occupied Cyprus in 2009.

In addition, two separate actions are pending for his refusal to take part in these exercises in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

The arrest of Murat Kanatli is an act of provocation and an infringement of Article 10 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union regarding the right of all to freedom of thought and conscience.

This is yet another example of the way in which the occupying powers are terrorising the Turkish Cypriot population and failing to respect their human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of expression, following on as it does from the tragic death in October 2011 of the 21-year-old Turkish private Ugur Kantar as a result of torture and ill-treatment at a military prison in occupied Cyprus.

In view of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of the arrest of Murat Kanatli in the context of the forthcoming examination of the question of legal and fundamental rights?
2. Will the Commission make representations to the Turkish authorities with a view to preventing any further proceedings against him?