

Question for written answer P-000422/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Cecilia Wikström (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Persecution of Turkish academics by President Erdogan

According to recent reports, more than 1 200 Turkish academics from 90 different universities have been the target of repressive legal actions by the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The academics are reportedly facing legal actions by the Turkish authorities for exercising their right to free speech by criticising the military operations approved by the Turkish Government in the south-east of the country.

Even without taking a position on the specific issues raised by the academics, I assume that the High Representative would agree that the exercise of the freedom of speech to criticise a sitting government must be allowed in a democratic society. Naturally, this should be self-evident for any country aspiring to join the European Union.

What actions has the VP/HR taken with regard to these actions by the Turkish authorities and what further actions does the VP/HR intend to take vis-a-vis the Turkish authorities?