Question for written answer P-002770/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Angel Dzhambazki (ECR)

Subject: Unethical investment in third countries by enterprises with public participation - the case of Volkswagen AG

According to the Volkswagen Group's 2018 annual report, the German federal state of Lower Saxony is its second largest shareholder, with 20% of the voting rights on the board. This means there is significant public participation in the enterprise, which is regulated through the '*VW Gesetz*' law of 1960. Against this backdrop, there have been increasing reports in the Turkish and European press in recent months that Volkswagen plans to invest in a new plant in Turkey.

The 2018 European Parliament resolution on progress by the Republic of Turkey makes unambiguous reference to the crackdown against journalists and representatives of civil society. It also recommends freezing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) and making this contingent on improvements in the field of human rights and democracy.

Given these circumstances:

Does the Commission feel it correct for an enterprise with public participation to be investing in a country that could increasingly be qualified an Islamic dictatorship?

Is it right, when the European Union is prepared to freeze the IPA II, for a European enterprise with public participation to be channelling significant investment into Turkey?

Does the Commission consider it fair for European workers to be disadvantaged by farming out production to somewhere just across the border from the Community?