

**Priority question for written answer P-003273/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Possible suspension of aid to Turkey following the Turkish Government's decision to intervene militarily in northern Syria

Respect for human rights, including those of minorities, is one of the European Union's founding values and it seeks to promote democracy and the rule of law in the wider world, in line with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and other instruments.

Under Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, pre-accession negotiations can only be conducted with states which adhere to the founding values of the European Union.

Despite its undertaking to abide by these values in the pre-accession negotiations, Turkey initiated a military offensive against Syria on 9 October, crossing the border in glaring breach of Syria's sovereignty.

The Turkish Government has repeatedly stated its intention to launch a direct armed attack against the Kurdish minority in northern Syria.

Can the Commission state whether it will suspend disbursement of the funds provided for in the IPA II negotiations, making this conditional on immediate cessation of the offensive by the Turkish Government and the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Syrian territory?