

**Priority question for written answer P-001613/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ankara orders prison sentences for Osman Kavala and Turkish Cypriot journalist Sener Levent

Following the unacceptable Turkish court judgment ordering life imprisonment for human rights activist Osman Kavala, the Ankara Criminal Court has now sentenced the 2018 European Citizen's Prize laureate, Turkish Cypriot journalist Sener Levent, to one year's imprisonment on charges of insulting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

This was prompted by the publication of a satirical cartoon in the newspaper 'Afrika' in early December 2017, for which he was formally acquitted in 2019 in the 'provincial court' of Nicosia. However, Ankara has shown its displeasure by initiating fresh proceeding against Sener Levent and condemning him in absentia.

This is a flagrant infringement of freedom of the press and freedom of expression, reflecting disregard for the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary in Turkey, the autarchic nature of the current regime and its reluctance to introduce any fundamental reforms regarding human rights.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether the human rights situation in Turkey is in line with the EU principles and values that must be respected by a candidate country?
2. What sanctions does it intend to impose on Turkey for its continued infringements of human rights?