

**Priority question for written answer P-004081/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Stelios Kympouropoulos (PPE)

Subject: Prison sentence for Ekrem İmamoğlu, Mayor of Istanbul

The sentencing of Ekrem İmamoğlu, Mayor of Istanbul to two years, seven months and 15 days in prison and the decision to ban him from politics further demonstrate the serious shortcomings in the functioning of Türkiye's democratic institutions and the erosion of its democratic values, as reflected in the European Commission's annual enlargement report¹.

As stated in the June 2021 European Council Conclusions², this calls into question the possibility for the EU to 'engage with Turkey in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner to enhance cooperation in a number of areas of common interest'.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what steps it will take to underpin democratic institutions in Türkiye and ensure compliance by that country with its obligations to respect democracy and the rule of law?
2. Does it still believe it possible to achieve closer cooperation with Türkiye?

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¹ 2022 Communication on EU Enlargement policy, <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-10/T%C3%BCrkiye%20Report%202022.pdf>

² European Council meeting (24 and 25 June 2021) – Conclusions, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>