

**Question for written answer E-002667/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Türkiye goes after Sener Levent again

Türkiye's actions against European citizens in EU Member States are frequent and are patently obvious in the case of the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus. The persecution of the Cypriot citizen Sener Levent, in particular, is unprecedented. Mr Levent is a newspaper editor and journalist who was awarded the European Citizen's Prize by the European Parliament. A Turkish court in Ankara recently announced a new prison sentence against Levent, demonstrating once again how the Turkish judiciary is manipulated by the government for its own ends. In its latest report on Türkiye, the European Parliament said it 'condemns the repeated attempts by Türkiye to intimidate and gag Turkish Cypriot journalists and progressive citizens in the Turkish Cypriot community...'

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Given the string of condemnations directed at Türkiye for its actions against Sener Levent, what measures will the Commission take immediately to protect a European citizen and journalist whose work has earned him the European Citizen's Prize, and to ensure that his fundamental rights are respected?
2. Given Türkiye's failure to comply, despite the EU's recommendations, and given its continued violation of basic human rights within Türkiye as well as through the regime that was imposed on EU territory, i.e. in the occupied part of Cyprus, does the Commission intend to take effective measures, including proposing sanctions, to ensure Türkiye complies?

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