

**Priority question for written answer P-001634/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Costas Mavrides (S&D)**

**Subject:** Turkish court hands down prison sentence to Sener Levent, who was awarded the European Citizen's Prize by the European Parliament in 2018

Journalist Sener Levent, a citizen of the Republic of Cyprus living in the Turkish-occupied part, who was awarded the European Citizen's Prize in 2018 by the European Parliament, has received a one-year prison sentence from a Turkish court for insulting the Turkish President in a cartoon published in the Turkish Cypriot newspaper 'Avrupa' (2017). This is a shameless infringement of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, confirming that the Turkish courts are becoming mere tools in the hands of the Erdoğan administration. Levent is also being prosecuted by the Turkish puppet regime in the occupied territories of Cyprus in a bid to silence all voices speaking out against repression within the Turkish Cypriot community.

Sener Eltzil, General Secretary of the Cyprus Turkish Teacher Trade Union (KTOS), who was awarded the European Citizen's Prize in 2016, is also facing prosecution.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what measures it will take to protect European citizens, who have been awarded the European Citizen's Prize and to ensure that their basic freedoms are respected?
2. What steps will it take against Turkey, a candidate for accession, in response to its total disregard for ECHR rulings, its infringement of basic human rights in Turkey and the regime it has imposed on the occupied part of Cyprus, which is in EU territory?