

**Question for written answer E-015547/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Marine Le Pen (ENF)**

Subject: Judicial examination of journalists from the Turkish daily newspaper Cumhuriyet

Two journalists from the Turkish daily newspaper Cumhuriyet, Can Dündar and Erdem Gül, were placed under judicial examination and imprisoned in Istanbul on 26 November for having disseminated articles, photographs and a video showing arms consignments being delivered to the Syrian rebels by the Turkish Government. The two men are accused of spying and of membership of a terrorist organisation.

On two occasions, on 1 and 19 January 2014, near the Syrian border, the Turkish police had intercepted trucks loaded with arms intended for Syrian rebel groups (mortar rounds, munitions for small and large calibre arms, grenade launchers, etc.). The convoys were escorted by the Turkish intelligence services (MIT). Some months later, Cumhuriyet revealed everything, after which the Turkish Government stated that the trucks were carrying humanitarian aid supplies. The government subsequently admitted that they had been carrying arms.

1. What is the Commission's response to the arrest of the two journalists and to the arms supplies to Syria, apart from the traditional formula that it is 'closely following an alarming situation'?
2. Has the Commission contacted the Turkish Government?
3. Does the Commission consider this to be the right time to promise to open new chapters in the accession negotiations with Turkey?