

**Question for written answer E-014919/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Renate Sommer (PPE)**

Subject: Seizure of Koza Ipek Holding in Turkey

The week before the general elections in Turkey, one of Turkey's biggest holdings, Koza Ipek Holding, was confiscated; the entire management of 22 companies, including the media group with its two TV channels and two daily newspapers, was given to a pro-government trustee board. The total loss caused by the trustee board to the holding and its public shares is reported to exceed half a billion euros in the space of 10 days. Given that there is no judicial procedure or court decision, the decision to take over the management has no legal value under the Turkish constitution or Turkish law. The sole 'legal' basis for this decision is a request of the Finance Ministry's Financial Crimes Investigation Board based on reasonable suspicion and a request to the judge from the Ankara Chief Prosecutor's Office. The trustees took control of the newspapers and changed their publication policy by bullying journalists and firing the editors-in-chief of both the *Bugün* and *Millet* newspapers.

Does the Commission agree that this political interference was an attempt to influence the outcome of the elections on 1 November 2015?

How does the Commission perceive the current state of media freedom in Turkey?

How does the Commission intend to address this violation of core European values with Turkey?