

**Question for written answer E-014465/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mario Borghezio (ENF)

Subject: Turkey - 12- and 13-year olds on trial for insulting Erdogan

According to Turkish press sources, two Turkish cousins aged 12 and 13 have been taken to court on charges of insulting Turkish President Erdogan after tearing down, on 1 May this year, some posters of him in Diyarbakir, the main Kurdish city in south-eastern Turkey.

The trial, due to begin on 8 December, now has to be given the final green light by the Ministry of Justice. The two cousins face up to two years and four months of custody, to be spent in a reformatory. According to their lawyer, the children tore down the posters without even knowing who was on them, but with the intention of selling them to the rag and bone men who collect waste materials on the streets.

Given that Turkey has ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, can the Commission say whether it is aware of this situation and how it intends to react?

Does the Commission not also think it might be appropriate to suspend any kind of agreement with Turkey, given this latest episode whereby anyone who criticises the Erdogan government is prosecuted – this time with the aggravating circumstance that the perpetrators were children?