

**Question for written answer E-015432/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Arrest of Can Dündar and Erdem Gül

Last week Can Dündar, editor-in-chief of the newspaper *Cumhuriyet*, was placed in pre-trial detention in Istanbul together with Erdem Gül, head of the newspaper's Ankara office. *Cumhuriyet* recently received the 2015 Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Prize in the media category. Can Dündar is a serious and respected journalist whose credibility is confirmed by a long list of achievements and publications, and the fact that he and his colleague are being treated like criminals for simply doing their job is appalling.

The Turkish media reported that the two journalists have been accused of spying and 'divulging state secrets' because of an article and a video which were published in May 2015 and showed local authorities seizing some crates on a truck. The crates were said to contain weapons sent by the National Intelligence Agency and destined for Islamist rebels, even though the government has always denied that it was helping that particular extremist group. The government did not like this, so Can Dündar and Erdem Gül could now face life imprisonment.

Turkey is a candidate country for EU membership, and therefore we must not tolerate the silencing of its press and the oppression of journalists.

What has the EU done to attempt to secure the release of Can Dündar and Erdem Gül?