

Question for written answer E-015362/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Stefano Maullu (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Position of the EU regarding the assassination of Tahir Elci

On 28 November 2015, lawyer and Kurdish activist Tahir Elci was killed in Diyarbakir during a gun battle between the police and an unnamed 'commando'.

Tahir Elci had been arrested several times and had received death threats after saying that the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) should not be regarded as a terrorist organisation.

Even though he was promoting a peaceful solution to the conflict between the Turkish Government and the Kurdish minority, Tahir Elci was arrested by the Turkish authorities in October 2015 on charges of spreading 'terrorist propaganda' on behalf of the PKK.

The Turkish Government has frequently been accused by civil society groups of failing to conduct appropriate investigations where victims belonging to the Kurdish minority are involved.

Can the High Representative/Vice-President say what measures the European Union intends to take to promote the resumption of talks in the process to settle the issue of the Kurdish minority in Turkey?