

**Question for written answer E-002865/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Matthieu Valet (PfE)

Subject: Türkiye's alleged ties with radical Islamist groups in Syria

On 8 December 2024, Bashar al-Assad's regime was overthrown in a lightning offensive by a coalition of rebel forces led by radical Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), headed by former al-Qaeda member Abu Mohammed al-Jolani.

During the offensive, the HTS worked closely with the Syrian National Army, which is formed of armed Islamist groups such as Ahrar al-Sham and Faylaq al-Sham. Türkiye has played a major role in supporting those groups by supplying arms, military training and logistical support as part of its strategy to destabilise northern Syria.

Although Türkiye claims to be committed to combating terrorism, it is undermining Europeans' security by funding and arming radical groups hostile to the West. Its stance with regard to Syria raises serious questions about its reliability as a partner in the fight against terrorism and as a candidate for EU membership.

Is the Commission prepared to condemn Türkiye's actions and reassess its EU accession process, including by suspending all funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance?

Submitted: 11.12.2024