

**Priority question for written answer P-003132/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Türkiye's long arm in European classrooms: the Maarif Foundation

Previous written questions addressed Türkiye's use of Diyanet and diaspora organisations to project state influence abroad. A July 2026 report¹ by the Belgian human rights organisation Solidarity with OTHERS documents a parallel educational instrument: the state-funded Turkish Maarif Foundation.

The report estimates that, by March 2023, at least 162 Gülen-linked educational institutions in 29 countries had been closed, confiscated or transferred, affecting approximately 7 800 staff, with 131 institutions transferred to Maarif. The country cases in the report describe diplomatic pressure, the withdrawal of licences, compulsory property transfers, security operations and deportations. Maarif itself acknowledges taking over hundreds of Gülen-linked schools following Turkish diplomatic efforts and presents its activities as part of Türkiye's public diplomacy.

1. Has the Commission received information concerning coercive transfers of schools to Maarif, and will it request from Türkiye and the governments concerned details of the legal basis, compensation and judicial remedies relating to those transfers and of Turkish diplomatic involvement in them?
2. Does the Commission consider coordinated state influence through educational, religious or diaspora networks, where coercive, covert or deceptive methods are used, to fall within its definitions of foreign interference or foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI) and, if not, which EU instrument addresses such conduct?

Submitted: 27.7.2026

¹ <https://solidaritywithothers.com/turkish-maarif-foundation-and-the-global-attack-on-gulen-schools/>.