

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001066/26
to the Commission
Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE)
(16 March 2026)**

Subject: EU-Türkiye engagement and rule of law concerns

On 6 and 7 February 2026, the Commissioner for Enlargement, Marta Kos, visited Ankara to discuss EU-Türkiye cooperation, meeting senior Turkish officials and attending the signing of a EUR 200 million European Investment Bank (EIB) loan for small and medium-sized enterprises. The visit took place amid ongoing EU concerns about Türkiye regarding the rule of law, restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, pressure on independent media and shrinking civic space, as reflected in recent Commission enlargement reports and Parliament resolutions.

In the light of the above:

1. How does the Commission justify the decision to prioritise high-level political and economic engagement with the Turkish authorities at a time when serious and persistent rule of law concerns remain unresolved?
2. What concrete benchmarks related to judicial independence, media freedom and fundamental rights were raised during the visit, and were any measurable commitments obtained from the Turkish authorities?
3. How does the Commission ensure that enhanced cooperation on trade, connectivity and financial instruments, including EIB-supported loans, remains fully consistent with the EU's obligations under Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and does not risk weakening the EU's credibility on fundamental rights in the enlargement process?

Submitted: 16.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(3 August 2026)**

Türkiye remains a key partner for the EU and a candidate country. The Council and European Council have regularly reiterated the EU's strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean, and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye ⁽¹⁾. The EU and Türkiye have common interests in a number of key areas, including trade, migration and regional connectivity.

The Commission noted in the 2025 Enlargement Report ⁽²⁾ that there was backsliding in the area of rule of law and fundamental rights, including judicial independence and media freedom.

During her visit to Ankara on 6 and 7 February 2026, the Commissioner for Enlargement raised those concerns and emphasised that without a reversal of this backsliding, the accession process would remain at a standstill ⁽³⁾. She also met with Members of the Turkish Parliament, including from the opposition, to engage with them and hear their views.

The Commission is committed to supporting projects that promote economic resilience, innovation and sustainability, while maintaining a strong stance on fundamental rights and the rule of law.

The EU's funding in support of civil society, promotion of fundamental rights and people-to-people contacts in Türkiye continues.

The dialogue on rule of law remains an integral part of the EU-Türkiye relationship, and the Commission will continue to address these issues in all relevant contacts with the Turkish authorities, including within the framework of the sub-committee covering this area under the Association Agreement with Türkiye.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16933-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2025_en.

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-turkish-foreign-minister-he-hakan-fidan-and-eu-commissioner-enlargement-he-marta-kos-2026-02-06_en.