

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001726/26
to the Commission
Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE)
(28 April 2026)**

Subject: Visit of the Commission to Türkiye

On 6 and 7 February 2026, there was an official visit by the Commission to Türkiye in order to discuss EU-Türkiye cooperation on regional stability and connectivity in a shifting geopolitical context. As part of this visit, meetings were held with government officials.

During the visit, the Commission reiterated that respect for the rule of law, democratic standards and political pluralism remains a core element of the EU accession process. However, it appears that no specific meetings were held with representatives of the democratic opposition, which continues to face significant repression. This contrasts with other contexts, such as in Serbia, where engagement with opposition actors and protesters has been reflected in official visits.

Furthermore, there were no visible expressions of solidarity regarding the situation of Ekrem İmamoğlu, the elected Mayor of Istanbul and presidential candidate, whose imprisonment has become a symbol of broader concerns about democratic standards and political freedoms in Türkiye.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission justify this approach and how does it ensure that engagement with all democratic actors is reflected in its official visits to Türkiye?
2. What is the position of the Commission regarding the imprisonment of politicians, journalists and intellectuals in Türkiye, including Ekrem İmamoğlu?

Submitted: 28.4.2026

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(27 July 2026)**

Türkiye is a candidate country and a key partner for the EU. Accession negotiations with Türkiye have remained at a standstill since 2018, in line with Council conclusions ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission continues to engage with Türkiye in areas of joint interest, without overlooking the deteriorating rule of law and democratic standards, as noted in the 2025 Enlargement report on Türkiye ⁽²⁾.

During the Commissioner for Enlargement's visit to Ankara in February 2026, she raised those concerns and met members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, including from the opposition.

The Commission remains concerned about the imprisonments of politicians, journalists and intellectuals in Türkiye, including Mr İmamoğlu's arrest.

It has urged Turkish authorities to ensure that individuals are treated in accordance with the principles of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission and Commissioner for Enlargement issued a joint statement on 19 March 2025 on the arrest of Mr İmamoğlu ⁽³⁾.

Following the 21 May 2026 decision annulling the 2023 People's Republican Party's regular congress, the European External Action Service spokesperson noted that these developments raise questions about the rule of law, democratic pluralism and judicial independence in Türkiye ⁽⁴⁾.

Respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law is essential for the EU accession process and will continue to be an integral part of EU-Türkiye relations.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/35863/st10555-en18.pdf>.

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

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-high-representativevice-president-kallas-and-commissioner-kos-recent-events-2025-03-19_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/turkiye-statement-spokesperson-decision-%C2%A036th-ankara-regional-court-justice_en.

As an EU candidate country and long-standing member of the Council of Europe, Türkiye is expected to apply the highest democratic standards and practices. The Commission will continue to address these issues in its contacts with the Turkish authorities.
