(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002625/25
to the Commission
Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE)
(30 June 2025)

Subject: Suppression of the pride march in Istanbul and backsliding of LGBTQIA+ rights in Türkiye

On 29 June 2025, Turkish policy violently dispersed the pride march in Istanbul before arresting at least 50 people, including lawyers and journalists.

This brutal crackdown is part of an increasingly hostile climate towards LGBTQIA+ people in Türkiye. For a number of months, the Turkish Parliament has been examining bills to ban the 'promotion of homosexuality' and restrict content deemed as 'going against family values'. The bills, which follow similar lines to laws in Russia and Hungary, pose a serious threat to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the principle of non-discrimination.

Türkiye is both a strategic partner to the EU and a candidate country. Upholding fundamental rights — including the rights of LGBTQIA+ people — must be at the heart of dialogue with the country's authorities.

1. Does the Commission publicly condemn such repression and legislative abuses?

2. How does the Commission intend to include the protection of LGBTQIA+ rights in its political relations with Türkiye?

Submitted: 30.6.2025

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(11 August 2025)

The Commission closely follows the human rights situation in Türkiye and provides regular assessments and recommendations in its annual reports.

In its Türkiye report for 2024 ([1]), the Commission stressed the lack of protection for the fundamental rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) persons in the country.

Hate speech and hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity, negative stereotyping in the media and discriminatory rhetoric by high-ranking government officials continued. The report specifically points out the decision of Türkiye's authorities to ban pride marches, while allowing anti-LGBTIQ rallies.

The Commission is committed to fostering inclusive societies for LGBTIQ people, in the EU and beyond. This commitment is reflected in the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 ([2]), which aims at advancing equality and combating discrimination against LGBTIQ people, including in candidate countries.

As announced in the 2025 Commission Work Programme ([3]), the Commission will present a new LGBTIQ equality strategy post-2025 by the end of 2025.

Protection of LGBTQ persons' rights is an integral part of the EU's dialogue with Türkiye on the rule of law and fundamental rights.

The Commission raises this issue in all relevant contacts with the Turkish authorities, including in the context of the sub-committee covering this area established under the European Economic Community-Turkey Association Agreement ([4]).

([1]) https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en.
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0698&qid=175025862364712, November 2020, COM(2020)698 final.
([3]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0045, COM(2025)45 final.
([4]) OJ L 361 of 31.12.1977, p. 29.