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The unacceptable acts of the Dutch Authorities with regard to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly

Written question No. 720 to the Committee of Ministers
by Mr Talip KÜÇÜKCAN, Turkey, European Conservatives Group

The fundamental rights of the Turkish community living in the Netherlands, first and foremost their freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, have been violated due to the recent deplorable actions taken by the Dutch authorities. Contrary to the imperatives of democratic citizenship , one of the core values of the Council of Europe, the Turkish community living in the Netherlands were deprived of their fundamental right to be informed about the referendum on constitutional changes in Turkey .

Furthermore, the unacceptable treatment of a minister of a member State of the Council of Europe by the authorities of another member state is not only a flagrant violation of relevant international instruments, including the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations ; it is also a blatant denial of diplomatic and political courtesy among member States.

What is equally unacceptable is the actions taken against Turkish diplomatic and consular missions and their members without due respect to their immunities, individual freedoms and dignity.

The Council of Europe, as the common house of 800 million Europeans for democracy, the rule of law and human rights, should take a common stance against such discriminatory practices by the governments of the member States.

With regard to the unacceptable acts of the Dutch Authorities, particularly in terms of freedom of

expression and freedom of assembly,

Mr Kücükcan,

To ask the Committee of Ministers,

In accordance with Council of Europe values and standards, what measures does the Committee of Ministers intend to take pertaining to the recent deplorable measures by the Dutch authorities?