

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General Enlargement

B - CROATIA, MONTENEGRO, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, TURKEY,
ICELAND
B.3 - TURKEY

Brussels,
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Dear Sirs,

Commissioner Füle asked me to respond to your letter received on 30 August 2012.


Thank you for the detailed information you provided on the case of Radio Vatan's licence. The Commission had been informed about this issue, and our Delegation in Turkey followed the court case. Moreover, we have asked the Turkish authorities for information as part of our regular political monitoring exercise.

We understand that the case before the European Court of Human Rights is pending, and we await the Court's judgement on a possible violation of fundamental freedoms.

On a general note, freedom of expression and plurality of the media are essential for the Commission and very important in our monitoring of progress towards full respect of the political criteria in the enlargement countries. As regards Turkey, the increase in violations of freedom of expression and restrictions on the freedom of the media over the past period raises serious concerns. The Commission has communicated this message to the Turkish authorities at various occasions.

The Commission will assess freedom of expression and freedom of the media in more detail in its upcoming progress report on Turkey, to be published on 10 October.

Yours sincerely,



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