

**Question for written answer E-009245/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Notis Marias (ECR)**

Subject: Measures to counter people trafficking networks in Turkey that are organising the illegal entry of thousands of refugees into Greece

The conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa are generating massive waves of refugees seeking safe haven in the EU, resulting in a sharp increase in the number of those illegally entering Greek territory.

The Turkish Hurriyet newspaper (29.5.2015) has now revealed the shocking truth regarding the activities of people trafficking gangs operating in Turkey, which are seizing this opportunity to enrich themselves at the expense of thousands of desperate refugees seeking refuge in Europe.

Quoting revelations by the British Daily Telegraph, the Hurriyet newspaper indicates that hundreds of thousands Muslim refugees, mainly from Syria, are being organised in groups and making substantial payments to Turkish people traffickers for illegal entry into Greece and in particular the Aegean islands.

It appears that the Turkish authorities are turning a blind eye to what is regarded as one of the country's most lucrative activities, earning millions of dollars, given that the refugees are willing to pay large amounts to organised people traffickers in Turkey in order to enter Greece.

In view of this:

What action will the Commission take and when to curb the activities of Turkish people trafficking gangs facilitating the illegal entry of refugees into Greece, crack down on the traffickers and ensure that Turkey meets its obligations to the international community?