

**Question for written answer E-001177/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Press reports about the EU-Turkey agreement on the refugee question

Documents¹ about the agreement between the EU and Turkey on the refugee question and the exchanges between Mr Tusk, Mr Juncker and Mr Erdogan were recently made public.

It is very clear from those documents that Mr Erdogan 'is threatening' the EU, saying that if it does not give him what he is asking for, i.e. money and the unconditional opening of chapters, he will open the borders and refugees will be transported to Greece and Bulgaria in buses or the people of Europe will see more drownings. Then Mr Erdogan asked the two officials what they would do and if they would carry on letting refugees die.

Another thing which is clear is Mr Juncker's position that the submission of the Progress Report on Turkey was delayed to help Mr Erdogan win the elections, something which the President of Turkey himself rejects in his criticism of the content of the Report.

In view of the above, could the Commission please state:

1. If the press reports are true, why were the Member States and the European Parliament not informed, at the relevant discussion, about Mr Erdogan's behaviour before the decision was taken to provide EUR 3 billion worth of aid and the intention of opening chapters was expressed?
2. The accession negotiation procedure is a specific procedure which must be followed by all acceding states. Is it the intention that an exemption should be made for Turkey and that the relevant procedures should be by-passed?

¹ <http://www.euro2day.gr/news/economy/article/1397081/hontro-paihni-di-sth-plath-ths-elladas.html> and <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/global-europe/erdogan-threatened-flood-europe-refugees-321698>