

**Question for written answer E-002546/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Application of the EU-Turkey Agreement

On 18 March 2016, the European Union and Turkey signed an agreement to manage the flow of illegal immigrants who make their way through Turkey to Greece in the hope of settling in an EU Member State.

This agreement seems to be no more than a rehash of the readmission agreements that were signed by Turkey with Greece in 2001 and 2010, and with the European Union in 2013, and then simply ignored.

The new agreement is unlikely to be any more effective. As long ago as in 2009, during a visit to Athens, European Commissioner Jacques Barrot criticised the lax stance of the Turkish authorities, and drew the EU's attention to the danger of 'Greece being destabilised by uncontrolled migratory flows'. He was wasting his breath. These flows have been increasing steadily for years; the cause can be found partly in the international agreements (e.g. the Geneva Convention, New York Protocol) signed by the Member States and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. If these international agreements are not renegotiated or interpreted differently, migratory flows will continued unabated and the new agreement with Turkey will not be worth the paper it's written on.

Against this background, could the Council explain how the decisions taken at the last EU-Turkey summit will actually be implemented?