

**Question for written answer E-002903/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Flaws in EU-Turkey deal

The migration deal between the EU and Turkey came into effect on 20 March 2016, and on 4 April the first refugees were returned from Greece to Turkey. In accordance with the agreement, Turkey is obliged to prevent refugees from crossing illegally to Greece.

According to an Amnesty International (AI) report from 1 April 2016, Turkey is applying radical measures to stop the refugee flow. AI states that 'Turkish authorities have been rounding up and expelling groups of around 100 Syrian men, women and children to Syria on a near-daily basis since mid-January'.<sup>1</sup>

Until very recently, Turkey pursued an open-door policy. Since the agreement entered into force, a number of legal concerns regarding human rights protection have been raised.

In light of the above:

- Is the Commission aware of the fact that collective push-back of refugees at the Turkish-Syrian border is in breach of the internationally recognised principle of non-refoulement?
- How can Turkey be considered a 'safe third country', given that Turkey retains a geographic limitation to the Geneva Convention by not guaranteeing the right to seek asylum to non-Council of Europe nationals?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2016/04/turkey-illegal-mass-returns-of-syrian-refugees-expose-fatal-flaws-in-eu-turkey-deal/>.