

**Question for written answer E-005000/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Josef Weidenholzer (S&D)

Subject: Dealing with highly-qualified refugees in Turkey

At a meeting in Ankara last week, the Turkish Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) stated publicly that highly-qualified refugees should not be allowed to leave the country. In May, the UN refugee relief organisation UNHCR called on Turkey not to prevent well-educated Syrians, such as engineers and doctors, from continuing their journey into the EU, after the DGMM had officially told the UNHCR that Syrian refugees with academic backgrounds were no longer allowed to leave. The German magazine 'Der Spiegel' (Issue 21/2016) also reported that Turkey was not allowing well-educated Syrians such as engineers, doctors or skilled workers to travel to the EU. However, among the refugees allocated to Turkey for pre-selection with regard to resettlement there is an above-average number of refugees with serious medical issues or a low level of education.

1. Is the Commission aware of this problem?
2. Can measures be taken to guarantee that qualified refugees are not disadvantaged under the Turkey agreement? If so, what are they?
3. How can the Commission make sure that Turkey does not abuse its special privilege to preselect refugees allocated for resettlement by the UNHCR?