

Question for written answer E-005921/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Murder of refugees by Turkish border guards

There has been a series of terrifying reports of Turkish border guards killing dozens of people in recent months, including several children. According to human rights organisations, refugees, including pregnant women and children, are also being deported en masse, in violation of international law.

This comes after the EU-Turkey agreement was signed, which was designed to stem the arrival of refugees to Europe via the Greek islands. The agreement includes a pledge from the Turkish government to reduce the flow of asylum seekers and 'strengthen border control,' which we now see entails killings and human rights violations. This is being done with money from the EU, which has provided Turkey with EUR 3 billion to ensure it has the means with which to protect refugees.

In recent statements, HR/VP Federica Mogherini has said that Turkey has a legal and a moral duty of care for the refugees arriving at its borders.

Are steps being taken to ensure that Turkey fulfils this responsibility? What will the EU do if Turkey does not cease its continual human rights violations? What will it take for the EU to no longer consider Turkey a safe country?