

**Question for written answer E-005964/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Commission's interference in the drafting of EASO's Turkey Country of Origin Information report

EUobserver¹ has reported that, allegedly, some members of the management board of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and some Commission staff members from the Migration and Home Affairs department (DG Home) are unhappy with EASO's efforts to determine whether Turkey is a safe third country and have asked the agency to water down its report and to restrict the scope of its inquiry.

According to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 439/2010, EASO's Support Office is expected to draft Country of Origin Information (COI) reports, by gathering, in particular, relevant, reliable, accurate and up-to-date information on the countries of origin of people applying for international protection, in a transparent and impartial manner, making use of all relevant sources of information;

Under the same article, 'information on countries of origin' must be analysed in a transparent manner;

An accurate analysis cannot elude the question of safe third countries.

In the light of the above, what does the Commission intend to do to ensure that EU Agencies can operate not only transparently but also independently, and disseminate full information on the countries of origin of migrants, as well as on safe third countries, without obstructions and obstacles being put in their way by other European Institutions?

¹ <https://euobserver.com/migration/133836>