

Question for written answer E-001948/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Violation of Community law: Commission funding of the sale of military armoured vehicles to Turkey

According to an investigation by *Der Spiegel*, the EU, through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), has allocated EUR 80 million to Turkey for security and border surveillance technology; of this sum, EUR 35.6 million has been earmarked for the purchase of Cobra II-type military armoured vehicles with a view to guarding the border with Syria and preventing any new refugee flows.

The violation by Turkey of the border with its illegal invasion of Syria, the violent deterrent measures and the 'pushback' tactics it is deploying at the border represent a gross violation of international law, refugee law and international human rights law.

Numerous surveys indicate that more than 40 people have been killed since last September attempting to cross the Turkish-Syrian border. The use of these vehicles is dangerous, since it puts human lives directly at risk. In addition, these vehicles can easily be converted so that they can be fitted with real fire-power.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Which borders are these armoured vehicles currently blocking and what exactly are they being used for?
2. What guarantees has the Commission received from Turkey that the use of these vehicles will not violate human rights and refugee law? How does it control the use of these vehicles, ensuring that they are not converted and equipped with real fire-power?