

Question for written answer E-001949/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: The European Union finances military armoured vehicles in Turkey, violating the international law on refugees

The EU, under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, gave Turkey EUR 35.6 million towards the purchase of Cobra II military-type armoured vehicles, with the aim of protecting its borders with Syria and preventing new influxes of refugees.

Bearing in mind that:

- Turkey is not bound by the Geneva Convention of 1951 and may not be considered a safe country, since there are no guarantees for the rights of refugees;
- Article 18 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union grants persons who are in need of international protection real access to the Geneva Convention and to international protection and, in accordance with international legislation, preventing such persons from accessing EU territory simultaneously prevents them from accessing international protection, which constitutes a gross violation of the rights of refugees;
- the EU and the Member States are accountable, even for the legal effects of extraterritorial acts. Consequently, funding towards the purchase and use of the armoured vehicles may violate the principle of non-refoulement and of the prohibition of collective deportations.

In light of the above, the Commission is asked:

Does this financial endowment constitute a gross violation of Article 3 of the ECHR, of Article 4 of Protocol no 4 of the ECHR, of EU law, and of Article 33(1) of the Geneva Convention, given that the use of the military vehicles in question aims to prevent the arrival of refugees and repel them?