

**Question for written answer P-001172/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miltiadis Kyrkos (S&D)**

Subject: EU-Turkey Agreement on the refugee question

Greek press reports state that according to documents that refer to the period of the negotiations (November 2015) on the EU-Turkey Action Plan, the President of Turkey had a meeting with Mr Donald Tusk and the President of the Commission. The President of the Commission reportedly told Mr Erdogan that the refugee question, the visa agreement and Turkey's progress towards accession went hand in hand, something that all European officials categorically denied and still do.

Also, still on the basis of the press reports, Mr Erdogan linked the money promised to him by Europe with the threat that, if that money was not enough, he would send refugees to Greece and Bulgaria in buses or would let them drown along the coast, hence indirectly admitting that he can control the flows of refugees.

Lastly, it is alleged that the Commission deliberately delayed the publication of the progress report on Turkey at the request of Mr Erdogan himself.

In view of the above, will the Commission answer these questions:

1. Have these exchanges between European officials and the President of Turkey actually taken place?
2. From where does the President of the Commission derive the right to negotiate the refugee question and Turkey's progress towards accession as an overall agreement, when for a country to become an EU Member State there is a roadmap with the obligations laid down in the Treaties and the *acquis communautaire* which that country must respect?