

**Question for written answer E-005998/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Barry Madlener (NI) and Auke Zijlstra (NI)

Subject: EU plans to issue visas to Turkey in exchange for illegal immigrants

Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants come to the EU from Turkey every year. Brussels wants Turkey to take its illegals back, and in exchange it plans to hold out the prospect of EU visas for Turkey.

1. Is the Commission aware of the report in the German weekly 'Die Welt' entitled '*Flüchtlinge gegen Visa – EU will Deal mit der Türkei*' (Refugees in exchange for visas – EU wants to do a deal with Turkey)¹?
2. Can the Commission explain why the EU plans to reward Turkey by issuing EU visas if Turkey takes back its own illegal immigrants? Does the Commission agree with the Dutch Party for Freedom that bad behaviour should rather be punished – in this case, for example, by halting accession negotiations with Turkey? Is the Commission prepared to do this? If not, why not?

¹ <http://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article106429859/Fluechtlinge-gegen-Visa-EU-will-Deal-mit-der-Tuerkei.html>.