

**Question for written answer E-008571/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Marietta Giannakou (PPE) and Georgios Papanikolaou (PPE)**

**Subject:** Harassment of FRONTEX vessel by Turkish coastguards

In the early hours of 26 September 2012, a Slovene vessel forming part of the FRONTEX international border control force seeking to prevent clandestine migration into Greece, was challenged by a Turkish coastguard vessel, which radioed the ship's captain ordering him to withdraw from the area.

Given that the FRONTEX vessel was in Greek territorial waters, its captain refused to comply. A Greek coastguard vessel patrolling the area as part of the 'POSEIDON 2012' operation then arrived at the scene, informed the Turkish vessel that FRONTEX vessels were operating in the area to combat clandestine migration and advised it that it was in Greek territorial waters and was required to withdraw. Turkish vessel refused to comply and the resulting altercation became more heated, matters coming to a head with the Turkish vessel ramming the Greek vessel.

It is clear that Turkey is continuing its tactics of deliberately infringing Greek airspace and territorial waters and harassing FRONTEX vessels, thereby seriously obstructing joint operations being conducted at EU level in a bid to combat clandestine migration.

In view of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of this incident and efforts by Turkey to obstruct FRONTEX operations along Europe's maritime borders? Has it been informed of this incident and, if so, does it intend to take any specific action?
2. What measures will the Commission take to counter Turkish efforts to hamper FRONTEX operations, thereby endangering the safety of its crews, given that the memorandum of understanding signed by FRONTEX and Turkey on 28 May 2012 is binding on both parties, requiring them to cooperate and to coordinate their efforts to combat clandestine migration?