

**Question for written answer E-002484/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marcus Pretzell (ENF)

Subject: EU-Turkey refugee agreement

A year has passed since the EU-Turkey refugee agreement was signed. Its aim was to reduce the influx of refugees into the EU and to stop them risking their lives on the journey across the Aegean from Turkey to Greece¹. According to media reports, significantly fewer refugees have been arriving in Greece since the agreement was concluded². On 10 March 2017, the Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sebastian Kurz, warned that high numbers of refugees may continue to arrive via the Balkan migration route³.

Are there figures which show that the EU-Turkey deal is a more effective way of reducing the flow of refugees than shutting off the Balkan migration route and further border closures?

Under this deal, for each refugee in Greece who is denied asylum in Europe and deported to Turkey, the EU has pledged in return to take in a Syrian refugee from Turkey. How many Syrian refugees has the EU taken in thus far?

What can be done to guarantee that the people concerned are actually Syrian refugees?

¹ <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2017-02/fluechtlingsabkommen-tuerkei-eu-inhalt>

² <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2017-02/fluechtlingsabkommen-tuerkei-eu-inhalt>

³ <http://www.zeit.de/politik/ausland/2017-03/fluechtlingskrise-oesterreich-slowenien-balkan-route>