

**Question for written answer E-001820/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: EU funding for Turkey used to purchase military equipment

According to the findings of an investigation conducted by journalists from European Investigative Collaborations (EIC)<sup>1</sup>, EU funds made available to Turkey have not been used solely to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants. Instead, Turkey has also used the money to purchase military equipment, including armoured vehicles and border surveillance systems. EU funding totalling more than EUR 80 million has reportedly been diverted to cover the purchase of weapons used by the Turkish Army, which is currently fighting Kurdish forces in Syria, and the building of a wall more than 800 km long on the border with Syria. The UNHCR has issued statements condemning the worsening humanitarian crisis and drawing attention to the new waves of refugees fleeing the fierce fighting in Afrin. According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, 42 civilians have been killed near the border in the last six months alone.

1. Can the Commission confirm the reports concerning the procurement programmes and the EU funding which have enabled Turkey to purchase the military equipment which was the subject of the investigation?
2. What checks are carried out to ensure that Turkey does not use EU funds for military purposes in Syria and that it upholds refugees' human rights and complies with the ban on turning them away?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://espresso.repubblica.it/inchieste/2018/03/23/news/cosi-l-europa-paga-il-muro-in-turchia-1.319939>