

Question for written answer E-001851/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Jacques Colombier (ENF)

Subject: VP/HR - Release of two Greek soldiers

On Friday 2 March, the Turkish army arrested two Greek soldiers who were patrolling the Turkish-Greek border and who had supposedly taken a few steps into Turkish territory because of the bad weather.

This zone is known to be a transit point for illegal immigration. When they were arrested, the two Greek soldiers were in fact conducting an investigation into human traffickers.

Since then, both soldiers have been held by the Turkish authorities, despite the clearly inadvertent character of the action for which they have been reproached.

This incident is proof of the arrogance of the Turkish authorities, further characterised by the illegal actions that they continue to carry out in the eastern Mediterranean and in the Aegean sea against two members of the European Union, Cyprus (the northern part of which is still under occupation) and Greece.

1. Requests that the Vice-President/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, pursuant to her powers (Articles 42 - 46 of Part 5, Chapter 2, section 2 of the EU Treaty) explain how she intends to remind Turkey of its obligations under international law and to request that the two Greek soldiers be released.