

**Question for written answer E-002152/2019**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Demetris Papadakis (S&D)**

Subject: Growing numbers of irregular migrants entering Cyprus

According to official figures from the Cypriot Ministry of the Interior, 744 irregular migrants arrived on the island in the space of just one month (2 May-2 June). In the same period in 2017, the corresponding figure was just 138 people. In 2018, the total number of irregular migrants entering the country was 2625, while, from the beginning of this year up to 2 June, 3060 have already been recorded.

The accelerated influx of irregular migrants into Cyprus is a matter of serious concern, as asylum seekers account for 3.5 % of the population of just 850 000.

Further concern has been generated by what appears to be a flow of irregular migrants through the occupied territories, in particular given that, according to statements by the Cypriot Minister of the Interior, there is no longer any doubt that these people are arriving by air via Turkey, which is thereby violating European rules and laws.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

Is it aware of these actions by Turkey, which follow in the wake of its illegal acts of provocation in the Cypriot EEZ, and are now creating strong migratory pressures on Cyprus – compounded by Turkey's refusal to implement the readmission agreement for irregular migrants in the case of the Republic of Cyprus?

What action will the Commission take to stem the tide of irregular migrants from Turkey to Cyprus?