

**Question for written answer E-002607/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The refugee problem

The increase in refugee and migratory flows shows that Turkey's bargaining tactics and rivalry with the EU, the US and NATO are harming refugees and inhabitants of the Greek islands alike. In any case, the EU-Turkey agreement, on which the EU and the SYRIZA and New Democracy (ND) governments congratulate themselves so warmly, is cut with the same cloth.

ND measures to tackle the refugee and migrant problem dovetail with those taken by SYRIZA, and condemn thousands of migrants to remain stranded on the Greek islands under inhumane conditions in hotspots which meet EU specifications such as Moria (on the island of Lesbos).

In view of the above, how does the Commission view demands:

to close down the unacceptable hotspots on the Greek islands and in Evros, to move refugees and migrants to decent reception centres in mainland Greece so that their applications can be examined and to transfer them to the countries where they actually intended to go?

to allow family reunions to proceed without delay and to ensure that no minors have to live in inappropriate conditions, unprotected, homeless or incarcerated and that the rights of refugees enshrined in the Geneva Convention are fully respected, without the right of second-level appeal for asylum applications being abolished?

to channel EU funds via the State rather than NGOs to support refugees and grant 100% compensation to those inhabitants of the Greek islands who have suffered losses from the fact that refugees are doubly trapped, an arrangement imposed by the EU and successive SYRIZA - ND governments?