

**Question for written answer E-002615/2019  
to the Commission  
Rule 138  
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Over-concentration of refugees in Greece

The sharp increase in migratory flows through Greece's eastern maritime borders has been a matter of considerable concern lately, with the island of Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Leros and Kos again coming under intense pressure.

Last July, some 6 000 third-country nationals arrived in the above islands , up 120% compared to July 2018.

There has also been an increase at the Evros land border, particularly in the Alexandroupolis area.

At the same time, the heavy concentration of refugees and migrants on Turkey's coast, as well as geopolitical developments in the Eastern Mediterranean, have fuelled legitimate concerns that the situation may deteriorate in the coming months, given the favourable weather conditions. In this context, Turkey's unpredictable stance on its agreement with the EU on refugees and its repeated threats to open its borders have created pressure in Greece and Europe and have put the Greek authorities on the alert.

Since the conflicting interests of the Member States in the management of the refugee issue have so far prevented the full implementation of EU decisions on an equitable and proportionate distribution of refugees across the EU, will the Commission say:

How will it react in the light of the new data, so that there is equal burden-sharing between Member States instead of an over-concentration of the refugee population in Greece?