

**Question for written answer E-002685/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Joint EU-Turkey Statement on refugees

One of the key objectives and conditions of the joint EU-Turkey Statement, which entered into force on 20 March 2016, was to break the traffickers' business model and get irregular migration under control. In particular, Turkey pledged to take all the necessary measures to prevent the opening of new sea or land routes for illegal migration into the EU, and to cooperate with its neighbouring countries and with the EU to this end. For some time now, however, the number of incoming migrants from the Turkish coast has been rising sharply to levels occasionally reminiscent of the mass influxes that occurred in the 2015-2016 period. One typical example was the coordinated arrival onto Lesbos, in just a few hours on the afternoon of Thursday 29 August 2019, of more than 500 migrants on 13 boats. The situation continued like that for a few days, with the connivance of the Turkish authorities. In all, some 6000 migrants arrived on the North Aegean islands last August.

In view of this:

What immediate action is the Commission planning to take in order to hold Turkey to account for its failure to comply fully with the terms of the EU-Turkey Statement, in particular with regard to the dismantling of the migrant trafficking network?