

**Question for written answer E-003169/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID), Alessandra Basso (ID), Marco Dreosto (ID), Marco Zanni (ID), Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID), Stefania Zambelli (ID), Elena Lizzi (ID)

Subject: Turkey's advance in Syria: what action will the Commission take to ward off the migration fall-out and escape of imprisoned terrorists?

In the last few days, press outlets around the world have been reporting the news that Turkey has begun advancing into territory in north-east Syria, an area currently controlled by the Kurdish YPG forces.

Official Turkish statements say the offensive is aimed at creating a 'safety zone' on the border between Syria and Turkey. The same sources give the name of the operation as 'Peace Spring'.

Two thousand US troops have been fighting in the area for a long time now, supporting Kurdish troops over many years in combating remaining ISIS resistance.

Just hours ago, the White House claimed it had not given any 'green light' to military operations against the YPG and that no US troops were involved, as the USA had not withdrawn its troops but had simply redeployed around one hundred of its soldiers.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission believe that the Turkish offensive could open up a new front in the Middle East, with more migration as a result?
2. Does it believe that ISIS militiamen detained in Kurdish prisons in the area could escape from the places where they are currently being held?
3. What action and steps will it take to head off the aforementioned risks, namely a new wave of migrants from the Middle East region and the escape of ISIS fighters?