

**Question for written answer E-003213/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Threats by Erdoğan to send massive numbers of refugees to the EU

In recent statements, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has again threatened the European Union, saying that he will open the way for 3.6 million refugees to flood Europe.

On the occasion of EU officials' criticism of the Turkish invasion of north-eastern Syria, the Turkish President has also gone so far as to claim that he has not received any financial assistance from the EU for the refugees residing on Turkish soil, while he, on the other hand, has spent more than USD 40 billion for this purpose.

At the same time, increasing migratory flows from the Turkish coast to the Greek islands are continuing unabated, which indicates that the Turkish threats should be taken seriously and creates well-founded fears that they will be carried out.

Given that EU-Turkey contacts are continuing at an institutional level with a view to reinforcing the Joint Declaration on Refugees, including the detection and deterrence of irregular migrants leaving Turkey and cooperation with Greece on this issue, will the Commission say:

Does it still consider Turkey a reliable partner for the management of the refugee problem, following the Turkish President's threatening statements referred to above?

How will it respond to this position by Turkey?

Does it have an alternative plan if Turkey fails to cooperate and carries out its threats?