

**Question for written answer E-003289/2019/rev.1
to the President of the European Council**

Rule 138

Marco Zanni (ID), Anna Bonfrisco (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID), Paolo Borchia (ID)

Subject: Turkish offensive into north-east Syria, possible restrictive EU measures

The Turkish offensive known as 'Operation Peace Spring', launched a few days ago in north-east Syria, which was under Kurdish control, may have catastrophic consequences, including many civilians being victims of it and the further destabilisation of a region that has already been tormented by nearly a decade of Syrian civil war, with the risk of the return or faster reorganisation of ISIS.

Erdogan has already threatened to allow millions of refugees to cross into Europe if the offensive is criticised or actions are taken to stop it.

As part of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027, the Commission has proposed that the budget for the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) be increased from 12.8% to 13%, equivalent to EUR 14.5 billion, of which, on the basis of how the previous budget was allocated, around half will go to Turkey. Turkey has received some EUR 9 billion of IPA funds since 2007, and it has been a beneficiary of candidate country status since as long ago as 1999.

1. Does the Council plan to bring a definitive halt to membership negotiations, with the resulting marked cut in funds?
2. Following the same rationale underlying the restrictive measures applied to Russia in March 2014, does the Council plan to impose similar restrictive measures on Turkey?