

**Question for written answer E-004286/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Overcrowding on the Greek islands

Migratory flows from the Turkish coast to the Greek islands have recently continued to increase, so that the Greek authorities can now barely cope. According to recent data, more than 7 000 migrants in all arrived on the islands of the north-eastern Aegean in November, with just over 1 000 arriving last week. There are over 30 000 refugees and migrants on the islands: the situation has now become explosive and incidents take place virtually every day at the reception and accommodation centres.

A key priority of the Greek government is to ease the migratory pressure on these islands by transferring vulnerable groups of refugees in particular to the mainland. However, these transfers are more than offset by new waves of migrants and refugees arriving from the Turkish coast.

Given the failure so far of efforts to revise the Dublin Regulation on a permanent mechanism for the relocation of refugees throughout the EU in the event that a Member State should come under excessive pressure, will the Commission say:

Is it examining the possibility of re-activating Article 78 (3) TFEU in order to implement programmes to resettle refugees from the Greek islands as a way of defusing the current crisis?