

**Question for written answer E-000250/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Illegal deportations of Syrian refugees by the Turkish authorities

According to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reports, Turkey has arbitrarily detained and used threats and violence to coerce Syrian refugees in immigration removal centres into signing voluntary return forms before deporting them to Syria's Idlib Governorate. In its 'Question and Answers on Implementing the EU-Turkey Agreement' the Commission has underlined that it can guarantee that asylum seekers are given protection in Turkey because both the EU and Turkey agreed to respect the principle of non-refoulement in their statement of 18 March. However, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees does not have access to immigration removal centres, and can only freely monitor voluntary return procedures in some of Turkey's Provincial Directorate of Migration Management offices. The Commission financially supports the reception of asylum seekers in removal centres through its 'support to the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement', contracted and financed under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT) and the Instrument for Pre-accession Funding (IPA).

1. What monitoring activities does the Commission use as a basis to guarantee that the Turkish authorities have not coerced refugees into signing return forms to Syria?
2. Will the Commission press the Turkish authorities to allow the UNHCR to expand its voluntary return monitoring activities to Turkish immigration removal centres?