

EN
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Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
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Since 2015, the EU has provided Greece with technical and financial support on migration totalling EUR 2.77 billion. The Commission presented on 4 March 2020 an Action Plan of measures to support Greece¹ and coordinates voluntary relocations from Greece to pledging States. Under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, Member and Participating States have offered in-kind assistance to Greece mainly in the areas of mobility, health, sanitation and shelter. Following fires in Moria, in September 2020, the Commission established a taskforce to improve the situation on the island of Lesbos in a durable way and in line with the new Pact on Migration and Asylum to help ensure that migration is managed in an effective way. The taskforce will implement a joint pilot with the Greek authorities for new reception facilities working in close collaboration with EU Agencies and international organisations.

Since the start of the crisis in Syria 2011, the EU and its Member States have mobilised more than EUR 20 billion to support the most vulnerable Syrians inside the country and across the region. In 2020, the Commission alone mobilised EUR 194 million in humanitarian aid, enabling partners to reach millions of people with vital assistance inside Syria.

The EU monitors the situation closely and continues to engage with the Turkish authorities to ensure that vulnerable persons have access to humanitarian support. The EU remains committed to the EU-Turkey Statement². The European Council of 1-2 October 2020 agreed to launch a positive political EU-Turkey agenda with a focus on continued cooperation on migration issues, in line with the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, provided constructive efforts to stop illegal activities vis-a-vis Greece and Cyprus are sustained³.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_384

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/pdf>

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/01/european-council-conclusions-on-external-relations-1-october-2020/>