

**Question for written answer E-002653/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Virginie Joron, Christine Anderson**

**Subject:** Brussels paying children in Turkey who agree to go to school

Following the Merkel-Erdogan agreement in March 2016 <sup>1</sup>, Brussels agreed to pay two tranches of EUR 3 billion to Turkey. The list of projects funded during the 2016-2019 period brings some curious sums to light: the Commission apparently funded a project encouraging children to go to school regularly in return for banknotes. The sums involved are quite considerable: EUR 34 million in 2016, EUR 50 million in 2017, EUR 70 million in 2018 and EUR 10 million in 2019, making EUR 164 million paid out in cash <sup>2</sup>. It's one of the top items of expenditure. By way of comparison, France paid EUR 50 million to fund the construction of a 250-bed hospital in Turkey.

Is the Commission considering funding European children who agree to go to school?

The scheme has been set up through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The British newspaper 'The Times' has revealed that UN staff have been implicated in almost 60 000 rapes and that paedophiles work at UNICEF <sup>3, 4</sup>.

What procedures and inspections have been put in place to ensure these banknotes are not misappropriated or used by men to abuse children?

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2017/07/04/l-accord-avec-la-turquie-sur-les-refugies-doit-etre-supprime\\_5155477\\_3232.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2017/07/04/l-accord-avec-la-turquie-sur-les-refugies-doit-etre-supprime_5155477_3232.html)

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/facility\\_table.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/facility_table.pdf). The project is run by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/un-staff-responsible-for-60-000-rapes-in-a-decade-c627rx239>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5399247/UNICEF-kids-rights-campaigner-jailed-rape-boy-13.html>