

**Question for written answer E-004475/2020  
to the Council  
Rule 138  
Christine Anderson (ID)**

**Subject:** Reform of the common asylum system and the role of Turkey

Migration policy remains an issue of overriding importance, also under the German Council Presidency.<sup>1</sup>

In the wake of the migration crisis, Chancellor Merkel won plaudits for concluding the EU-Turkey migration pact. In reality, however, the pact has proved to be a dead letter, as Turkey has ignored the agreed return quotas.

Under the terms of the EU-Turkey Statement, since 4 April 2016 26 576 people have been resettled. Furthermore, since 21 March 2016 a total of 2 134 migrants have been returned to Turkey (139 in 2020 so far, and 189 in 2019), and 601 persons have been returned under the bilateral protocol concluded between Greece and Turkey. Since June 2018, Turkey has stopped implementing that protocol.<sup>2</sup>

1. How will the Council respond to Turkey's flouting of its pact with the EU through its refusal to accept the return of migrants?
2. If Turkey fails to honour pledges it has given, what role can it play, as a state bordering on the EU, in a future 'common asylum system' involving all the Member States?
3. In an EU which at the time had 28 Member States, as of 31 December 2018 (latest data available) 21 233 931 valid residence permits had been issued, 1 635 289 to persons who enjoyed international protection status<sup>3</sup>. Under a future 'common asylum system', how many people can it be assumed will be able to cite international protection status as the justification for remaining in the Member States? In particular, will this figure rise or fall?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eu2020.de/eu2020-de/programm/schwerpunkte-der-deutschen-eu-ratspraesidentschaft/2324718>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000563-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000563-ASW_EN.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000562-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2020-000562-ASW_EN.html)