

**Question for written answer E-001573/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Greek Minister of Migration and Asylum's comments on certain NGOs helping migrants

On 8 December 2020, Notis Mitarakis, the Greek Minister of Migration and Asylum, said that he had witness statements and corroborated information indicating that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were helping Somali asylum seekers reach Turkey and, from there, arrange their crossing to Greece¹.

InfoMigrants reported that a Turkish liaison office in Mogadishu was helping applicants obtain student and healthcare visas on the basis of documents provided by Turkish-funded institutions in Somalia²³.

According to the Minister, of the 214 migrants who made it to Greece from Turkey in November and December 2020, more than half were Somali.⁴

Does the Commission intend to investigate these allegations and how does it intend to make Turkey comply with the statement of 18 March 2016 on migration?

¹ 'Speaking to foreign correspondents in Athens, Notis Mitarakis said that the ministry has "witness testimony and confirmed information" that NGOs were helping Somali asylum seekers travel to Turkey and from there helped arrange their crossing to Greece via migrant smuggling networks.'
<https://www.ekathimerini.com/news/260035/greek-minister-says-ngos-facilitating-illegal-crossing-of-somalis-from-turkey/>

² 'A Turkish liaison office in Mogadishu has been helping applicants to obtain visas with documents provided by Turkish-funded institutions in Somalia, including a hospital and a university.'
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/29000/greek-government-accuses-turkey-over-trafficking-of-somalis>

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/europe-migrants-greece-idUSKBN2811OL>

⁴ 'He added that more than half of the 214 migrants who had reached Greece from Turkey since the start of November were from Somalia.'
<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/29000/greek-government-accuses-turkey-over-trafficking-of-somalis>