

**Question for written answer E-001586/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud (ID), **Nicolas Bay** (ID)

Subject: Renewal of the EU-Turkey Agreement at the expense of the return of refugees to Syria

In ten years of conflict, every second Syrian has had to leave their home. There have been 6.5 million displaced people, and 5.6 million have left the country. 880 000 have gone to Lebanon, 662 000 to Jordan and 3.6 million to Turkey. And millions of migrants have come to Europe.

Since 2011, over EUR 20 billion have been released by the European Union to help Syrians both inside and outside Syria, for example the EUR 6 billion of the EU-Turkey agreement.

The latter agreement, whilst deemed 'good' by the High Representative of the Union, is in danger of being considerably less so in the long term for European taxpayers.

By keeping millions of migrants within its borders, Turkey is effectively blackmailing the European Union, as was shown by the orchestration of intense migratory pressure at the border with Greece, which enabled it to obtain an extra EUR 500 million in 2020.

Renewing the agreement amounts to giving Turkey's leadership full marks for manipulating migrants for political reasons.

Will the Commission please state:

1. the reasons for renewing an instrument which enables Turkey to blackmail Europe by flooding it with immigrants?
2. why there has been a lack of joint planning for returning Syrian refugees to their home country, something that Denmark has already started to do?