

**Question for written answer E-005328/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Georg Mayer (ID), Harald Vilimsky (ID)

Subject: Critical situation at the border with Belarus

The critical situation at the Belarus-Poland border has been occupying Europe for a number of weeks. New information suggests, however, that another country has now become involved in this unfolding drama. That country is none other than Turkey, and it is not the first time that Turkey has built pressure and blackmailed the EU.

1. Under the refugee deal, the EU pays Turkey billions to stop migrants illegally entering the EU. However, an increasing number of migrants who are currently attempting to reach the EU via the Belarus-Poland border are starting this journey from Turkey. Does the Commission believe that Turkey is in breach of the agreement?
2. It is nothing new for Turkey to blackmail the EU by allowing migrants to cross the border. Will the Commission now stop the payments to Turkey once and for all?
3. Turkey remains a candidate for EU membership. What would actually have to happen before the plug is finally pulled and the Commission definitively revokes Turkey's candidate status?