

**Question for written answer E-000034/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)**

**Subject:** Numerous fatalities on stricken refugee vessels in the Aegean Sea

Implementation by the EU of a reactionary agenda regarding the refugee problem has led to three deadly shipwrecks in the Aegean Sea within the space of a few days at the end of 2021, leaving dozens refugees, including infants and young children, either dead or missing.

Repressive border protection involving a reinforced police and military presence and massive fences and superstructures, together with detention centres on the islands and on the territory of Evros and the provisions of the new pact designed to speed up deportations, are driving refugees into the clutches of people traffickers and forcing them to make longer and more dangerous journeys, from Turkey to Italy for example.

In view of this,

1. How can the Commission justify claims to be combating traffickers thanks to the action of FRONTEX and NATO, while in fact a repressive strategy of confinement, deportation and disregard for the rights of refugees has led to further deadly shipwrecks in the Aegean and the prospering of trafficking rings that prey on refugees?
2. What view does it take of calls to protect the right of refugees to asylum, prevent the unravelling of the Geneva Convention, abolish the EU-Turkey Joint Declaration and set up committees on asylum under EU and UNHCR auspices in Turkey, enabling refugee to travel from there to their countries of actual destination without the need to make such dangerous journeys?