

**Question for written answer E-003342/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Further tragic shipwrecks of vessels carrying displaced persons off Kythira and Lesbos

Two more vessels carrying displaced persons were shipwrecked on the evening of 5 to 6 October. The first in Kythira resulted from the foundering of a sailboat, which became waterlogged. Despite the best efforts of local residents, who managed to rescue 80 people during the night, eight people died and another seven were reported missing, with hopes of finding them alive diminishing by the hour.

A second shipwreck off Lesbos claimed 18 lives, including 16 women under the age of 20, one man and one juvenile.

An enormous share of responsibility for this lies with the EU and successive Greek governments, including the ruling ND party. Such shipwrecks are an almost daily occurrence and are largely attributable to harsh EU framework provisions such as the Dublin Regulation and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the progressive implementation of which is resulting in the increasingly brutal treatment of asylum seekers with the connivance of Frontex.

In the light of this:

1. What view does the Commission take of the fact that the ongoing tragedy in the Aegean is attributable to the EU-Turkey deal, the harsh treatment meted out at borders with Frontex present and confinement in prison-like structures on the Aegean islands and Evros, all of which are driving desperate people who are victims of persecution into the clutches of people smugglers and forcing them to attempt such perilous sea crossings?
2. What view does it take of calls for EU and UN asylum committees to be set up in Turkey, enabling refugees to travel directly to their countries of destination?