

**Question for written answer E-000765/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sophia in 't Veld (Renew), **Birgit Sippel** (S&D), **Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Cornelia Ernst** (The Left)

Subject: Türkiye's status as a safe third country

The Commission's latest report on Türkiye¹ in the context of the EU enlargement policy highlights systemic issues in the country's treatment of refugees and migrants, as well as a significant deterioration in the rule of law. These findings are directly relevant to Türkiye being considered a safe third country as outlined in Article 38 of the Asylum Procedures Directive².

1. Does the Commission acknowledge that its findings in the report have consequences for Türkiye being considered a safe third country?
2. In particular, where does it stand on Türkiye's status as a safe third country in the light of the reports of refugees in detention centres being coerced into signing 'voluntary return' forms and Türkiye's suspension of registration in certain provinces under the '25 % rule', as well as the European Court of Human Rights judgment of 21 June 2022 in the case of *Akkad v Türkiye*?
3. Will it act on the evidence presented in its own report by changing its position that Türkiye is a safe third country and working towards improving the situation of asylum seekers in the country?

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¹ Commission staff working document of 12 October 2022 entitled 'Türkiye 2022 Report' (SWD(2022)0333), accompanying the Commission's '2022 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy' of the same date (COM(2022)0528).

² Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection, OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 60.