

**Question for written answer E-002484/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

**Subject:** Combating trafficking rings on Turkish shores

The recent shipwreck that was reported in the morning of Monday, 28 August 2023, off Mantamados in the north-east of Lesbos, three nautical miles inside Turkish waters, throws the spotlight once again on illegal Turkish practices that are designed to systematically exploit desperate people.

In the incident in question, a Greek coastguard vessel on scheduled patrol in the area repeatedly informed the Turkish coast authorities of the presence of people in the water inside their jurisdiction. There was no response, despite the presence of Turkish coastguard vessels in the area of the capsized vessel. Subsequently, the Greek coastguard retrieved 22 individuals, four of whom were dead.

As Mr Kairidis, Greek Minister for Migration Policy, has often said, at the EU's sea borders the Greek authorities have to deal with 'artificial' shipwrecks, where the traffickers tear the boats apart and trigger a rescue by the Greek coastguard.

Turkey is flagrantly ignoring its obligation to control organised trafficking from Turkish shores, despite its duty under the EU-Turkey 2016 joint statement.

1. How does the Commission therefore intend to put immediate pressure on Turkey to stick to the agreements it has made and, finally, to control the trafficking rings that it is allowing to operate unhindered?

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