

**Question for oral answer O-000058/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the EFD Group

Subject: Situation of migrants in Greece

Exceptionally high numbers of migrants illegally cross the Greek-Turkish land border, accounting for 90 % of all detections of illegal border crossings into the EU in 2010. The temporary RABIT deployment at the Greek-Turkish border in 2010 initially decreased the number of illegal entries. However, according to Frontex, irregular migrant crossings to Greece showed a rapid increase in the second half of 2011, with up to 350 crossings per day. This is mainly a result of the impact of the Arab Spring and the fact that Turkey has implemented a visa-free environment for its neighbouring countries. It has done this without taking sufficient steps to protect its external borders from illegal and irregular immigration and the trafficking and smuggling of human beings by organised crime networks; nor is it complying with readmission agreements. This ongoing situation is posing a threat to the security of the EU.

In 2010 Greece adopted a National Action Plan on Migration Management, which has shown positive results to some extent. In 2011 it set up new services to deal with asylum applications and the initial reception of applicants.

According to the UNHCR, the Dublin II Regulation does not deploy the necessary mechanisms to ensure that responsibilities are shared in an equitable manner. Furthermore, the UNHCR says that illegal border crossings place a disproportionate responsibility on some Member States, especially those located on the EU's external borders. Dealing with migration flows consequently requires substantial resources and capabilities, at a time when Greece faces a difficult financial situation.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to adopt in order to facilitate the absorption of EU funds by the Greek authorities, and to provide technical assistance in this area in order to ensure a Union-wide solution for managing migration flows?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose a review of the Dublin II Regulation in order to implement a fair and efficient system that would fully guarantee the human rights of asylum-seekers in the EU?
3. What measures could the Commission take to encourage Turkey to comply with readmission agreements, and the Turkish authorities to fight human trafficking and organised crime effectively?

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