

**Priority question for written answer P-001313/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Damian Boeselager** (Verts/ALE), **Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Erik Marquardt** (Verts/ALE), **Alice Kuhnke** (Verts/ALE), **Saskia Bricmont** (Verts/ALE), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (Verts/ALE), **Ernest Urtasun** (Verts/ALE), **Diana Riba i Giner** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The situation on the Turkey-EU border

Since Turkey's decision to open its borders on Friday, 28 February, the situation on the Turkey-EU border is deteriorating. Authorities have reported that a four-year-old Syrian boy died in waters off Lesbos, and reporters claim that a Syrian refugee was shot dead by border guards. Furthermore, the Greek government announced its decision to increase the level of deterrence at its border and block any new asylum applications for one month. The UNHCR estimates the arrival of some 1 200 people on 1 and 2 March on the East Aegean islands.

The suspension, even if temporary, of the right to seek asylum, and any violation of the principle of non-refoulement are illegal under the Geneva convention, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the Treaty on European Union.

1. What will the Commission do to ensure that the EU and its Member States comply with international and EU asylum law?
2. Will it look into the alleged use of violence on the EU-Greek border, including the use of tear gas and the excessive use of physical force by border guards against asylum seekers?
3. What measures will the EU take, in coordination with international organisations, including the UNHCR and IOM, in order to alleviate pressure on Member States of first entry?