

**Priority question for written answer P-002199/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Danger of further massive refugee flows being deliberately channelled towards the Aegean

Following the Turkish hybrid offensive on the Greek land border on the Evros, which was effectively repulsed, the Greek authorities are once again on the alert following reports of 'ghost' vessels full of desperate migrants being directed by Turkey towards Greek territorial waters.

These unflagged, and unregistered vessels, which have been decommissioned and are dangerously unseaworthy, are now ready to depart from the Turkish coast, bearing thousands of migrants towards the Greek islands.

The Greek authorities are at the ready, closely monitoring Turkey's actions in order to prevent a further wave of incoming foreigners being directed this time towards the Aegean and to locate suspicious vessels before they set off from the Turkish coast.

Turkey is effectively adopting fresh tactics in a bid to step up the pressure on Greece and the EU at a time when they are already beset by the generalised threat to public health from the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of this:

What is the Commission's position regarding this situation, given the active involvement of EU coastguard vessels in patrolling external borders?

What immediate measures will it take should Turkey decide to illegally send vessels carrying migrants infected with the coronavirus towards Europe?