

Greek-Turkish border: MEPs reject Turkey's pressure, demand common asylum rules

The EU must help Greece manage its border with Turkey, while ensuring the right to asylum for those who need it, several MEPs said on Tuesday.

In a debate with Commissioner Johansson and the Croatian Presidency of the Council, a majority of speakers criticised Turkish President Erdoğan for using people's suffering for political purposes. Many also underlined that the 2015 refugee crisis should not be repeated and insisted that the EU needs to update its common rules on asylum.

Some political group leaders called for a revision of the deal with Turkey, which was [hammered out in 2016 to stem the flow of migrants and asylum-seekers](#) in exchange for EU financial aid. Others showed deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation both at the border with Turkey and on the Greek islands, where thousands of asylum-seekers, many of them unaccompanied minors, are stranded.

The need to respect the Geneva Convention and offer protection to refugees, the allegations about police violence against people attempting to cross the border and the risk that jihadists could be entering EU territory were also raised during the discussion.

You can [catch up with the debate](#).

Further information

Sassoli: "We must make a commitment to the thousands of unaccompanied minors at Europe's borders" (3.03.2020)

Audiovisual material on the meeting of President Erdoğan with EC President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Charles Michel (9.03.2020)

Frontex to launch rapid border intervention at Greece's external borders (2.03.2020)

EP Research Service: EU-Turkey relations in light of the Syrian conflict and refugee crisis (9.03.2020)

EP Research Service: Emergency measures on migration: Article 78(3) TFEU (6.03.2020)

EP Research Service: Family reunification rights of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection (February 2020)

EP Multimedia Centre: free photos, video and audio material

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