

**Question for written answer E-015184/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Attempt by the Turkish government to undermine the EU's policy on Syria

On 14 November, one day after the terrorist attacks in Paris, an agreement was reached in Vienna between the US, Russia, the EU, Iran and Sunni Arab governments on the Syrian problem¹. The agreement provides for a process of transition to end the civil war and eventually to hold free elections. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier presented this policy to the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs on 16 November.

It is clear, following the shooting-down of the Russian fighter by the Turkish army on 24 November, that the Turkish government is trying to scupper this policy which is based on a convergence between the US, EU and Russian positions and seeks, inter alia, to eradicate 'Islamic state'. An American official has even told Reuters that the Russian fighter was shot down inside Syrian airspace².

How does the EU intend to address these manoeuvres by the Turkish government? Does it agree that there is a contradiction in the EU's strategy of using the Turkish government - a government that is fomenting instability in Syria and indirectly causing the wave of refugees - as a means of limiting the influx of refugees in the EU?

¹

http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2015/11/14/vienna_talks_negotiators_agree_to_syria_peace_road_map_in_the_wake_of_paris.html

²

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/25/mideast-crisis-usa-france-idUSL8N13J5ER20151125#HwsivrkTzgiwxc1G.97>