

Question for written answer E-014948/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Maria Spyraiki (PPE)

Subject: Construction of a fence by FYROM along border with Greece

On 14/11/2015, the National Security Council of FYROM, an applicant for EU accession, instructed the army to start work on the construction of a wire fence along the Greek border in order to stem the flow of migrants. According an army spokesman, works on the fence have already started, as confirmed by witnesses at Eidomeni on the border between Greece and FYROM.

At the same time, FYROM is receiving EUR 24 m in EU funding under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, EUR 12 million of which is intended to assist FYROM with migration issues, border protection and asylum policy.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission confirm that EU and other funding is being used by FYROM for border protection purposes?
2. Does it regard the construction of a fence along the border between FYROM and Greece and use of EU funding for this purpose as being in line with the spirit of the pre-accession process?
3. Will it take steps to halt the use of EU funds for activities and projects that are not in line with European strategies to deal with the refugee crisis?