

Question for written answer E-016126/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Actions aimed at the creation of refugee hotspots in Turkey

We have submitted a written question to the Commission on the measures it is proposing to oblige Turkey to put a stop to the smuggling of refugees to the Aegean islands.

We have also repeatedly stated from the floor of the plenary sessions of the European Parliament that refugee hotspots need to be created on Turkish soil, in order to avoid both illegal transportation across the Aegean and the humanitarian tragedies to which this leads, and buildups of those unfortunate people on Greek islands, where hosting infrastructure is limited.

We believe the EU institutions must take into account the constant revelations in international news reports confirming the estimates of many observers regarding the involvement of Turkish officials in the human-trafficking gangs that smuggle refugees/illegal migrants across the Aegean; this would put pressure on Turkey to accept its due responsibilities.

However, no clear, binding decision in this regard is found in the European Council conclusions, 17-18 December 2015.

Can the Council state:

- What measures it intends to take, and by when, to compel Turkey:
 - (a) to comply with its international obligations;
 - (b) to eliminate the human-trafficking gangs that are smuggling refugees; and
 - (c) to create refugee hotspots on its soil?