

Question for written answer E-015435/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Barbara Matera (PPE)

Subject: No formal education for refugee children living in Turkey

Turkey has been a major actor in assisting with the refugee crisis as a result of the conflict in Syria. Turkey is hosting more than 2 million refugees from the Syrian conflict that began in 2011. More than 400 000 Syrian refugee children living in Turkey are not attending school. Turkey has struggled to ensure that Syrian schoolchildren have the access to education to which they are entitled under international law. The government adopted an important policy in September 2014 that formally grants Syrian children access to public schools, but key obstacles, including a language barrier, social integration issues, economic hardship and lack of information about the policy, still remain one year later. Securing these children's education will reduce the risks of early marriage and military recruitment of children by armed groups, stabilise their economic future by increasing their earning potential, and ensure that today's young Syrians will be better equipped to confront uncertain futures.

1. Is the Commission aware that 400 000 Syrian refugee children living in Turkey are not attending school?
2. What measures does the Commission plan to take so that Syrian refugee children can overcome the obstacles hindering them in getting an education?
3. Does the Commission have any plans to ensure that Turkey receives the adequate funding needed to fund schools for Syrian refugee children?