

Letter addressed to

European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

and

Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels

4th March 2020

Subject: Concerns over the conflicts at the Turkey-EU border

Honorable Members of the Commission,
Honorable Members of the Council,

We are deeply concerned about the recent situation on the Greek-Turkish borders as well as with the possible escalation of refugee and migrant crisis all over EU.

Turkey is playing a crucial and decisive role in managing the so-called refugee crisis in the Middle East and Mediterranean region and has endeavoured to tackle the problem using its own means, though with additional assistance from the EU and the international community.

The situation at the Greek-Turkish land border worsened dramatically on 29th February, following Ankara's official decision to let thousands of migrants enter EU territory. Thousands of people have repeatedly attempted to cross the Evros border in north-eastern Greece and have been stopped by Greek police forces. Migrants are taken to the Greek border by buses, free of charge. In addition, migrants and refugees at the Moria refugee camp received phone messages suggesting, "The border was opened and there is a ship in the port of Mytilene waiting to take you to the Greek mainland." Meanwhile Turkish president Erdogan says that the doors will stay open because EU is not keeping its promises.

On 18th March 2016 EU and Turkey agreed among others, that Turkey will take any necessary measures to prevent new sea or land routes for illegal migration opening from Turkey to the EU, and will cooperate with neighbouring states. The statement was the result of the 2015 migrant crisis with more than 1 million migrants influx into the EU. The EU and its Member States on the other hand will work with Turkey in any joint endeavour to improve humanitarian conditions inside Syria, in particular in certain areas near the Turkish border that would allow for the local population and refugees to live in areas, which will be safer.

The undersigned Members of the European Parliament, therefore, appeal to the Commission and the Council to acknowledge the migrant crisis, and expect from the Commission and the Council to engage with all means available, in order to ensure the preservation of safety in the EU. We call on the European Commission to use all the necessary financial means to provide human and technical assistance to Greece that are on disposal under Frontex. The European Commission should also take seriously the issue of informing migrants that the borders of Greece and other EU Member States remain closed to illegal crossings to prevent them from taking costly and risky path towards EU. Furthermore, we expect the Commission and the Council to provide the relevant information for the countries to be affected, as well as for all the others and to tackle the migrations issue in accordance with the EU policy on human rights.

It is necessary to react as quickly as possible at all levels to help our member countries and to prevent further escalation and humanitarian catastrophe.

Sincerely yours,

1. Romana TOMC, MEP
2. Milan Zver, MEP
3. Ljudmila Novak, MEP
4. Franc Bogovič, MEP
5. Gianna Gancia, MEP
6. Inese Vaidere, MEP
7. Lexmann Miriam, MEP
8. Ivan Štefanec, MEP
9. Karlo Ressler, MEP
10. Athanasios Konstantinou, MEP
11. Vlad-Marius BOTOȘ, MEP
12. Tomislav Sokol, MEP
13. Maria Grapini, MEP
14. Ioannis Lagos, MEP
15. Andor Deli, MEP
16. Balázs Hidvéghi, MEP
17. Kinga Gál, MEP
18. Michaela Šojdrová, MEP
19. Krzysztof Hetman, MEP
20. Hilde Vautmans, MEP
21. Ruža Tomašić, MEP
22. Marian-Jean Marinescu, MEP
23. Ádám Kósa, MEP
24. Enikő Győri, MEP
25. Milan Uhrik, MEP
26. Željana Zovko, MEP
27. Salvatore De Meo, MEP
28. Emil Radev, MEP
29. Massimiliano Salini, MEP

- 30. György Hölvényi, MEP
- 31. Monika Beňová, MEP
- 32. Edina Tóth, MEP
- 33. Michal Wiezik, MEP
- 34. Sunčana Glavak, MEP
- 35. József Szájer, MEP
- 36. Tamás Deutsch, MEP
- 37. Andrea Bocskor, MEP
- 38. András Gyürk, MEP
- 39. Livia Járóka, MEP
- 40. László Trócsányi, MEP
- 41. Tomáš Zdechovský, MEP
- 42. Marco Dreosto, MEP