

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000141/25
to the Commission
Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe)
(15 January 2025)**

Subject: Türkiye's failure to comply with the EU-Turkey Statement

Between April 2016 and January 2024, almost 41 000 Syrian refugees were resettled from Türkiye to the EU.

And since 2016, 2 140 migrants have been returned to Türkiye from the Greek islands under the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, according to the Commission's Eighth Annual Report of the Facility for Refugees in Türkiye ⁽¹⁾.

The statement set out, however, that for each refugee resettled in the EU, a refugee who had arrived illegally in the EU would be returned to Türkiye.

The report explains that the Turkish authorities 'have not revoked their decision of March 2020 to suspend return operations under the Statement due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no return operations have taken place since then despite repeated requests from the European Commission and the Greek authorities'.

As a reminder, the report states that by the end of 2023, the EU had disbursed more than EUR 5.3 billion of the EUR 6 billion pledged to Türkiye from 2016 onwards.

Can the Commission say:

1. whether it has disbursed any money since March 2020?
2. if it intends to disburse the remaining EUR 700 million while Türkiye fails to comply with the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement by refusing to take back refugees who arrived illegally in the EU?

Submitted: 15.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2025)**

The Commission has an obligation to disburse funding under the contracts it signs with regard to the financial assistance provided under the Facility for Refugees in Türkiye, provided the terms and conditions of those contracts have been respected.

Accordingly, the Commission can confirm that it has continued to disburse funding to support refugees in Türkiye within the framework of the 2016 EU-Turkey statement ⁽¹⁾ since March 2020 ⁽²⁾.

The conditionality of the statement is of a political nature. Since March 2020 the budgetary authority has allocated a further EUR 6 billion in assistance to refugees in Türkiye covering the period 2020-2027.

The budgetary authority decided on this allocation after careful consideration of the implementation of the statement. The Commission has continued to programme, contract and disburse the additional refugee support as well, and continues to do so.

Türkiye has sustained efforts to prevent irregular and dangerous crossings on the Eastern Mediterranean route to Europe. It also continues to host and support 3.6 million refugees from Syria and other countries (see Türkiye 2024 Report ⁽³⁾).

The EU expects Türkiye to stand by its commitments and to deliver on all elements in the statement. This includes preventing irregular migration to all Member States, resuming without further delay readmission of returnees from the Greek islands and applying the statement in a non-discriminatory way.

Progress in the implementation of the EU-Turkey statement will be on the agenda of the next Steering Committee for Refugees in Turkey in spring 2025. The meeting will be attended by Member States and representatives of the European Parliament.

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-5139-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18/eu-turkey-statement/pdf>

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/aebf392d-0c6b-4841-8234-f9661d1cb4ec_en?filename=COM_2024_593_F1_COMMUNICATION_FROM_COMMISSION_TO_INST_EN_V3_P1_3789868.PDF

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en