



# Parliament backs EU-Turkey deal to return clandestine migrants

Committees Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs  
Plenary sessions [26-02-2014 - 11:59]

**Clandestine migrants from the EU to Turkey or Turkey to the EU would have to be returned under an EU-Turkey “readmission” agreement signed by both parties in December and endorsed by Parliament on Wednesday. The return rule would apply not only to EU nationals and Turks, but also to third-country nationals who enter either the EU or Turkey via the other.**

"The readmission agreement will benefit Turkey as well as the European Union. Now it is up to Turkey to fulfil its obligations to implement the agreement in full", said rapporteur Renate Sommer (EPP, DE).

The agreement, approved by a show of hands, lays down obligations and procedures for taking back “irregular” migrants entering or living clandestinely in Turkey or the EU. It would oblige both sides to readmit their own nationals, third-country nationals without residence documents and stateless persons who entered either the EU or Turkey via the other.

Ms Sommer added that the readmission agreement would “make a significant contribution to curbing irregular immigration into the EU via Turkey, help combat cross-border crime, particularly human trafficking, and relieve the pressure on Greece and hence on the EU as a whole”.

## EU funding for border surveillance

Under the agreement, Turkey will get EU financial and technical help to build up its border police and install border surveillance equipment. This should help Turkey to make its borders with neighbouring countries, such as Syria, Iran and Iraq, more secure.

## Next steps

To enter into force, the readmission agreement still needs to be formally ratified by the EU and by Turkey. Its provisions on EU and Turkish nationals would take effect two months after ratification is completed, but those on nationals from third countries with which Turkey has not concluded bilateral arrangements would take effect only three years later.

## Contact

### Isabel Teixeira NADKARNI

BXL: (+32) 2 28 32198

STR: (+33) 3 881 76758

PORT: (+32) 498 98 33 36

EMAIL: [libe-press@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:libe-press@europarl.europa.eu)

TWITTER: EP\_Justice