

EU - Turkey migration deal: Civil Liberties MEPs push for answers

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Civil Liberties MEPs quizzed the Commission on the conditions in the Greek reception facilities, the number and background of staff carrying out asylum interviews, returns and conditions for refugees in Turkey during this morning's debate on the EU-Turkey migration deal. MEPs also stressed the need to respect international law and live up to EU standards.

Under the agreement finalised by heads of state and government at the summit on 18 March, all people arriving irregularly from Turkey to the Greek islands are to be returned, while the EU is to take in one Syrian refugee for each Syrian sent back. Once irregular crossings from Turkey have been substantively reduced, a Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme will be activated.

The deal also opened up for faster visa liberalisation for Turkish citizens travelling to the EU, provided Ankara complies with the requirements.

Catch up with our video summaries of the debate

Further information

- EU-Turkey statement, 18 March 2016 (Council)
: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18-eu-turkey-statement/>
- EU-Turkey agreement: Questions and Answers (European Commission 19 March 2016)
: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-963_en.htm
- Statement from Civil Liberties Chair Claude Moraes on the EU-Turkey deal
: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160405IPR21559>
- Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs:
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html>

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