

**Question for oral answer O-000071/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the ECR Group

Subject: EU spending on external migration policy in neighbourhood countries

In the framework of the announcement of the special report 'EU external migration spending in Southern Mediterranean and Eastern Neighbourhood countries until 2014' by the European Court of Auditors (report and press release), the auditors identified a series of shortcomings and spending weaknesses which need to be addressed in order to improve financial management.

The main criticisms made include: lack of a clear strategy; impossibility of determining total expenditure; no clear evidence that priority is given to the neighbourhood; fragmentation of funding; and poor monitoring and oversight. Furthermore, the auditors conclude that the EU spending has very little impact on key areas such as development, return and readmission support, and respect for human rights.

In the report, the auditors make a number of recommendations to the Commission:

- Clarify the objectives of migration policy, establish a framework for assessing performance, and direct financial resources towards clearly-defined and quantified priorities;
- Improve the preparation and selection of projects;
- Emphasise the connection between migration and development;
- Enhance coordination within the EU institutions, with partner countries and with Member States.

In light of continued spending on migration-related issues and of the possible significant sums to be allocated to Turkey, the report of the European Court of Auditors raises numerous doubts and questions.

1. Does the Commission agree with the conclusions of the Court of Auditors?
2. How will the Commission implement the recommendations of the Court of Auditors, and within what time-frame?
3. How does the Commission plan to get the spending of money through the Turkey Refugee Facility right from the start?

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Deadline for reply: 4.5.2016