

**Question for oral answer O-000072/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 128

Angel Dzhambazki, Charles Tannock, Monica Macovei, Bernd Kölmel
on behalf of the ECR Group

Subject: Use of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance to tackle the migration crisis

The Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) provides financing for the EU candidate countries (Turkey, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and for the potential candidate countries in the Western Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina; Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99). The IPA finances initiatives in five areas:

- assistance for transition and institution-building;
- cross-border cooperation (with Member States and other countries eligible under the IPA);
- regional development (transport; the environment; regional and economic development);
- human resources (strengthening human capital and combating exclusion);
- rural development.

On 7 October 2015 the Commission adopted a special measure on strengthening the response capacity of the most affected countries in the Western Balkans with a view to enabling them to cope effectively with increased mixed migration flows under the IPA for 2015, through which the funding that was initially foreseen to help beneficiaries make political and economic reforms has been partially diverted to finance measures to tackle the migration crisis.

According to the Commission implementing decision, the programme is directly managed by the Commission and the grants may be awarded without a call for proposals, which calls into question the accountability of the provided financing. In light of continued spending on migration-related issues and of the possible significant sums to be allocated to Turkey, it has become clear that the Commission is linking the pre-accession process with the measures to cope with the migration flows.

1. What are the benchmarks used by the Commission to monitor and evaluate projects financed under the IPA that are aimed at tackling the migration crisis?
2. What measures has the Commission undertaken to prevent misuse of IPA funds for political or other inappropriate purposes?
3. Will the Commission include a thorough analysis of the use of IPA funds in the 2016 Enlargement Package?

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