

**Question for written answer E-006486/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: New tragedy off Lampedusa

In terms of the confirmed death toll, the accident on 22 August was the worst tragedy to have occurred since October last year, when a boat sank near the island of Lampedusa and 366 North African migrants were drowned. In the latest incident more than 250 people died after a wooden boat heading for Italy sank not far from the Libyan coast. In August, within the space of just four days, the Italian Navy rescued 4 000 migrants – mostly from Libya – sailing in several boats attempting to cross the Sicilian Channel. Frontex estimates that the flow of migrants – to the Italian coast alone – increased by 500% in the first half of the year.

1. Since the beginning of 2014, how many humanitarian visas have been granted to refugees under EU legislation, and what were the nationalities of the recipients?
2. As regards the Asylum and Migration Fund and the funding available under the preparatory action intended to 'Enable the resettlement of refugees during emergency situations', which countries have made use of these resources since the beginning of the year, and what were the amounts involved?