

**Question for written answer E-002571/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: EU citizens sent to serve prison sentences in their countries of origin

As at 4 November 2014, Denmark had only managed to send 23 foreign criminals to serve sentences in their countries of origin. In 2013 the figure was 34. Some of these were nationals of non-EU countries, but there are also a large number of EU citizens among the inmates of Danish prisons.

In 2012 there were a daily average of 1 042 foreign prisoners in Danish prisons, incurring some DKK 560 million in extra expenditure for the Danish state.

In the first half of 2013 there were 387 East Europeans in Danish prisons, an increase of 18% since 2011. Criminals from Romania and Lithuania – both EU Member States – head the list, and accounted for around one in ten prisoners in Danish prisons that year.

East European prisoners have said on a number of occasions that they do not regard prison in Denmark as a punishment, more as a kind of recreational stay.

Does the Commission agree that the Member States have a duty to accept their own nationals to serve sentences for crimes committed in another Member State?

That being so, will the Commission impress upon the Member States that they should be prepared to accept without hesitation their own nationals who are returned home to serve their sentences in their country of origin?

Would the Commission be prepared to bring proceedings against Member States which refuse to accept their own nationals to serve prison sentences?