

**Question for written answer E-004828/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Joëlle Bergeron (EFDD)**

Subject: Explosion in the number of asylum seekers

According to the latest figures from Eurostat, published on 20 March, the number of asylum seekers in the European Union has reached the record number of 626 000.

At the European summit on 19-20 March, the heads of state and government stated that in order to control asylum requests, a joint strategy is needed to support the countries of origin and transit.

Libya is in such a disintegrated state that it has become the ideal route for illegal immigration, according to the executive director of Frontex.

The Italian Minister of the Interior, Angelino Alfano, has already warned that unless the Libyan question is resolved, there is no point talking about immigration with the hope of blocking departures. According to him, the priority should be to handle asylum requests in situ.

Does the Commission share the Italian Minister of the Interior's view regarding the explosion in the number of asylum seekers?