

**Question for written answer E-008145/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE), Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D), Eider Gardiazabal Rubial (S&D), Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE), Javier Nart (ALDE), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL), Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE), Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE), Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE), Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE), Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL), Francesc Gambús (PPE) and Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE)

Subject: Protocol for locating missing persons in Europe

On 19 October 2013, a young Basque man named Hodei Egiluz disappeared in Antwerp. The efforts made by his family to find him have given rise to an interesting piece of work of observation and comparison of how the institutions that can solve this kind of occurrence operate at European level. This experience offers a number of conclusions that may increase the prospects of resolving the nearly 10 000 cases of missing persons that go unsolved in Europe each year. Better coordination of Member State police forces on a cross-border and inter-state level, improvement of the databases of missing persons and the protocols for accessing them, activation of provisions for assistance for victims, especially access to the proceedings, dealings with the police and personal assistance (translation, accommodation), greater possibilities of following up investigations, etc., are just some of the aspects where there is scope for improvement.

1. What is the Commission's view of the annual figure of unresolved cases of missing persons in Europe?
2. Within the scope of the third pillar is there any work in progress to review these protocols for inter-State liaison in cases of missing persons? Is any preventive work being done in connection with the more vulnerable population groups?
3. Are there any statistics as to how the Directive on assistance for victims has improved access to the investigation and the administration of justice for victims of this and other types of occurrences?