

**Question for written answer E-008609/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Number of refugees

Every four seconds, someone is forced to flee from the Middle East. In their desperate attempts to reach Europe, thousands of refugees drown long before arriving at their destination.

The Civil War in Syria has already claimed more than 200 000 victims in four years of conflict. As Islamic State has advanced in the region, the already high number of refugees has risen to around 4 million people. Armed conflicts in the Middle East are massacring the population and there is no protection for civilians. The international community is standing on the sidelines and refusing to shoulder its direct responsibilities in this conflict.

The Commission has adopted a recommendation calling on the Member States to resettle 20 000 people from third countries over a two-year period.

Does the Commission not believe that this number falls far short of the needs as assessed by international organisations, also bearing in mind the EU's direct responsibilities in relation to the situation in Libya, Syria and Iraq?