

**Question for written answer E-008610/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Number of refugees

According to the 2015 report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), the already deplorable refugee figures increased by a further 11 million people last year alone, as a result of conflicts such as those in Syria, Ukraine, Iraq, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Yemen, Libya and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The number of refugees worldwide is now estimated at a record number of 38 million people.

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.

How does the Commission assess this number, bearing in mind the needs as assessed by international organisations, and of course also bearing in mind the EU's direct responsibilities in relation to the situation in Libya, Syria and Iraq?