

**Question for written answer E-008698/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (NI) and Jean-François Jalkh (NI)

Subject: Australia's immigration policy

According to a Commission spokesperson, the EU has no intention of adopting Australia's approach to immigration. The aim of Australia's 'Operation Sovereign Borders' is to send asylum seekers back to a transit country before they arrive on the country's shores. Implementing this new policy has considerably reduced the number of boats trying to reach the Australian coast and has cut the number of shipwrecks to zero. In the seas off the EU, meanwhile, many boats carrying migrants have sunk with the loss of more than 1000 lives, and traffickers are taking advantage of EU rescue and aid efforts by simply abandoning migrants at sea to be picked up by Member State patrols.

Can the Commission explain why it is so against the Australian approach when it clearly saves so many lives?