

**Question for written answer E-010200/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Helga Stevens (ECR)**

Subject: Timeframe revision mandate FRONTEX

In the Agenda on Migration it is stated that, while the EU has common rules on return, it lacks effective operational cooperation. Frontex is currently offering support to Member States, but its mandate must indeed be reinforced to increase its capacity to provide comprehensive operational assistance. Currently, Frontex can only coordinate return missions but not initiate its own. On the basis of the ongoing evaluation to be concluded this year, the Commission has announced that it would propose amending the Frontex legal basis to strengthen its role on return.

UNHCR has confirmed that refugee and migrant arrivals to Europe across the Mediterranean so far in 2015 have reached over 100 000 with record numbers now arriving every day in the Greek islands. The two largest groups to arrive in Italy in the first quarter of 2015 by boat were economic migrants from Gambia and Senegal, according to IOM. The return rate of these illegal economic immigrants is an appalling 39%.

Can you elaborate on the progress made with the ongoing evaluation that is to be concluded this year?

When can we expect the legislative proposals from the Commission to empower Frontex to organise and operate swift return operations from frontline Member States?

Is the end of the year a realistic timeframe?