

**Question for written answer E-010979/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE) and Cecilia Wikström (ALDE)**

Subject: Changes to the asylum system in Hungary

On 6 July 2015 the Hungarian Parliament approved amendments tightening the current asylum system, which will allow the authorities to cancel asylum requests if the petitioners leave their designated residence for more than 48 hours without authorisation, and prolong the detention of asylum seekers. The government has received the green light to build a fence on the border with Serbia to stem the flow of migrants and refugees. The UN and the Council of Europe have criticised the law as 'ill-advised' and impeding access to asylum, as well as having devastating implications for refugee protection in Hungary<sup>1</sup>.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the changes to the Hungarian law are contrary to the existing European and international acquis and protection standards, as well as running counter to the spirit of the recent EU initiatives for developing a holistic approach to migration and asylum policies, based on respect for fundamental rights?
2. Does the Commission consider that setting up a border fence, in combination with initiatives such as the consultation on immigration policies, may contribute further to a climate of hatred and prejudice?
3. Will the Commission intervene preventively in order to ensure that the Hungarian Government acts in full compliance with and respect of fundamental rights, or will it redress this discriminatory practice post factum, once the wall is built?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unhcr-centraleurope.org/en/news/2015/open-letter-to-the-members-of-the-hungarian-parliament.html>