

**Question for written answer E-012458/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL), João Ferreira (GUE/NGL) and Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Creation of safe and legal routes for migrants

Over 170 000 migrants arrived in Italy in 2014, three times the 2011 figure; in other words, the largest flow in the entire history of the EU was recorded. Several organisations estimate that around 260 000 migrants have arrived in the EU from the Mediterranean since the start of 2015. The main point of entry is currently the Greek islands, although large numbers of migrants continue to arrive in Italy: around 107 000 so far in 2015. As is well-known, the desperation of these people in search of survival leads them to undertake precarious and extremely uncertain journeys by paying traffickers. By 24 August 2015, 3 279 deaths had been documented in the Mediterranean, as against 2 081 in 2014. Clearly, the EU's repressive migration policies will not be capable of 'dissuading' thousands of migrants from attempting what is often their one and only chance of survival.

Is the Commission prepared to replace the current policy of border closures and controls, which inevitably sends thousands of migrants to their death, with a policy of creating safe and legal routes for migration from third countries to the EU?