

Question for written answer E-001278/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (ECR)

Subject: Dead refugees in the Mediterranean - political chess against the Left

The EU used to pursue a policy of turning back refugees, and traffickers generally put refugees on boats that were at least theoretically capable of reaching the southern European coast (or an island). The EU then changed direction and started rescuing boat people. Since then, traffickers have increasingly been using lower quality vessels that are not even theoretically suitable for a sea crossing.

1. When exactly and on what basis was the policy changed from turning back refugees to rescuing them?
2. How many refugees reached the EU in the last three years of the turn-back policy, how many applied for asylum and how many drowned (please provide quarterly figures)?
3. How many refugees have reached the EU in the last three years since the start of the rescue policy, how many have applied for asylum and how many have drowned (please provide quarterly figures)?