

**Question for written answer E-001501/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Solidarity and sincere cooperation between Member States regarding relocation decisions

On 16 February, the Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa expressed his solidarity regarding the issue of refugees in a letter to Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras.

Costa stated that Portugal is willing to accommodate 2 000 refugees in universities and 800 in technical colleges, and was considering the possibility of accommodating another 2 500 - 3 000 within the agriculture and forestry sectors.

Costa further stated Portugal's commitment to ensure that 'Europe will continue to have only one external border and no internal borders'.

Will the Council welcome this initiative and recommend that Member States follow this good practice in the hope that it becomes a common rule within the Union in the spirit of Article 80 TFEU?

What steps does the Council intend to take, in line with the principle of sincere cooperation enshrined in Article 4 TEU, to ensure that its representatives take all appropriate measures to ensure fulfilment of the emergency relocation schemes adopted during the extraordinary JHA Council meetings of 14 and 21 September 2015 and to refrain from any measure which could jeopardise their implementation?