Question for written answer E-002589/2016 to the Commission Rule 130 Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Situation of refugees in French camps

While the refugee camp in Calais known as 'the Jungle' is being dismantled, refugees continue to gather in other camps on the western coast of France, for example in Angres, Norrent-Fontes, Steenvoorde and Grande-Synthe.

A significant proportion of these refugees are minors, many of them unaccompanied, and they are living in insanitary conditions. NGOs operating on the ground report that the police are preventing them from doing their work. At the same time, the French Government is doing nothing to address the real problems, is acting in breach of EU law and is threatening to close the camp set up by Doctors Without Borders in partnership with local institutions, which is the only camp to comply with international standards.

In the light of these circumstances, which constitute breaches of EU asylum law (Directive 2003/86/EC, Directive 2013/33/EU, CFREU):

- 1. What specific action is the Commission taking to ensure that the French Government's management of these camps is consistent with EU law?
- Will it call on the French authorities to apply EU rules designed to protect unaccompanied minors who are currently living unsupervised in these camps, as urgently requested by the French Ombudsman for Children?
- 3. Will it urge the French Government to keep the new Dunkirk camp open, enable NGOs to provide assistance to refugees and help in the process of family reunification wherever possible?

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