

**Question for written answer E-003990/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Humanitarian catastrophe in Deir ez-Zor

Deir ez-Zor is a city divided and beset on all sides. Though much of the city is still controlled by the Syrian Government, it has been under attack and blockaded for more than a year by Islamic State (IS). Shelling and starvation have killed dozens of civilians, and much of the city has no electricity. It seems that the starving citizens of Deir ez-Zor in eastern Syria have been caught in the battle between Islamic State and government forces, and trapped by blockades imposed by both sides. According to the UN, in the city and surrounding provincial areas, 400 000 people are suffering as a result of the siege, as all the warring military forces are using civilians as weapons in open warfare.

Is the Commission considering offering humanitarian assistance in cases of malnutrition and starvation, given that all international efforts are focused on confronting IS in Raqqa, which will prolong the blockade in Deir ez-Zor?