

**Question for written answer E-004075/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: European Migrant Smuggling Centre

According to the Director of Europol, Rob Wainwright, 90% of migrants who entered Europe illegally in 2015 used 'facilitation services', mostly supplied by criminal groups.

On 22 February 2016, Europol inaugurated the new European Migrant Smuggling Centre to support the EU Member States proactively in dismantling the criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling. This Centre was launched following a decision of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers in November 2015.

In the light of the above, I should like to ask the Commission:

1. Is the European Migrant Smuggling Centre fully operational and functioning?
2. Forty-five experts were supposed to be seconded to this Centre. Has this happened?
3. Can the Commission give an account of the initial work of the Centre, both in operational and strategic terms?