

**Question for written answer E-004459/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: Rising numbers of asylum seekers from Chechnya

According to the German Ministry of the Interior, large numbers of people from the northern Caucasus are seeking asylum in Germany. German news agencies have reported that in April 2016 Russia had risen to fifth place among the countries given by asylum seekers as their country of origin. According to information released by the Ministry of the Interior, between January and mid-May 2016 82.3% of Russian first-time asylum seekers gave their ethnicity as 'Chechen'. In the aftermath of two civil wars, living conditions in Chechnya are described as disastrous and young people have little hope of finding a job which can offer them any degree of prosperity. The Parliamentary State Secretary in the German Ministry of the Interior, Ole Schröder, has already called for the Dublin regulation to be implemented systematically. Most Chechen asylum seekers enter the EU through Poland, and should therefore also apply for asylum in that country. A more rigorous approach to this matter is needed, given the alarming numbers involved and the fact that the economic and social situation in the northern Caucasus is unlikely to improve in the near future.

1. How does the Commission plan to curb the influx of refugees?
2. Can it provide statistics and/or figures to flesh out the reports coming from the German Interior Ministry?
3. Has it already noted the increase in the number of people from Chechnya seeking asylum in Germany? If so, what steps has it taken to inform the other Member States of this situation?