Question for written answer E-006054/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Need for a comprehensive and effective common list of safe countries of origin

On 9 September 2015, Jean-Claude Juncker announced that the Commission was submitting a proposal for an EU common list of safe countries of origin. The list, an essential tool in coping with the migratory crisis in the EU, is intended to enable Member States to fast-track applications from nationals of countries that are deemed to be safe, and thus relieve pressure on national asylum systems.

On 7 July 2016, Parliament's LIBE committee adopted a report on the Commission proposal for a regulation. Parliament called for a single EU list of safe countries of origin to replace all national lists within three years.

As things stand, however, the Commission has included only seven countries on the proposed list of safe countries of origin.

Therefore, given the need for the list of safe countries to be comprehensive and effective in alleviating migratory pressures in the EU, is the Commission already assessing other countries with a view to drawing up, at the earliest opportunity, the legislative proposals required in order to add more countries to this list once it is adopted? If so, which countries is it assessing?