

**Question for written answer E-006374/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Immediate decongestion of initial reception centres in the Eastern Aegean and the relocation of refugees housed in these centres to other EU countries

In the midst of the tourist season, violent incidents have erupted at hotspots on the islands of the Eastern Aegean, damaging the reputation of these islands and leading to a decline in tourism, while also putting the security of islanders at risk.

For instance: on 2 June 2016 violent incidents occurred between refugees of various nationalities at a hotspot located at Vathi (Samos) in which six people were injured and a small fire broke out; on 10 July 2016 at the hotspot at Lepida (Leros) approximately 200 refugees and illegal migrants staged a mass breakout and occupied a public space in protest at their living conditions; on 19 July 2016 and again on 6 August 2016 at the VIAL hotspot on Chios, refugees and illegal migrants staged a violent protest within and outside their accommodation facilities at the slow pace of the asylum-issuing procedures and their living conditions.

As the UN High Commissioner has stated, the longer the waiting period of refugees, the more tension there will be and the more incidents at the reception facilities.

Will the Commission say what immediate steps it will take to decongest these hotspots and speed up the relocation of refugees housed there to other EU countries?