Question for written answer E-006902/2016 to the Commission Rule 130 Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D)

Subject: Refugee children

It seems that hundreds of children traveling alone have been detained this year in so-called protective custody while they await a space in Greece's overburdened shelter system.

Children have been detained for weeks and months in unsanitary and at times degrading conditions, in dirty, bug- and vermin-infested cells, sometimes without mattresses.

What is the Commission doing to increase the capacity of the shelter system in Greece?

Is the Commission ensuring that asylum-seeking unaccompanied children of all nationalities are eligible for relocation, and will it provide more financial and technical support to process applications?

Is it going to investigate whether the authorities in Greece will stop detaining unaccompanied children in police stations and detention centres, and provide support for expanding short-term alternatives and increasing the capacity of Greece's long-term shelter system?