

**Question for written answer E-007005/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Viviane Reding (PPE)**

Subject: Effects of Armed Conflicts on Mental Health

On 25 March 2016, several associations of European experts on mental health, led by Prof. George N. Christodoulou, Prof. Dusica Lecic Tosevski and Prof. Dimitris N. Ploumpidis, adopted a declaration on the catastrophic and lasting effects of warfare and armed conflict on mental health. In total, the so-called 'Athens Anti-War Declaration' was endorsed by 105 organisations whose work is directly related to mental health.

It identified the building and preserving of peace as an essential means for the promotion of the mental well-being of humans. It also pointed out that the direct negative effects of armed conflict on mental well-being are amplified by indirect effects from refugee crises in countries of origin and elsewhere. Finally, it mentioned the European refugee crisis which resulted from the war in Syria as the most recent example of this phenomenon.

The link between armed conflict and mental health has now been clearly established and meanwhile the EU is facing an internal refugee crisis as well as ongoing armed conflicts in its neighbourhood.

What is the Commission doing to mitigate the negative effects of armed conflict on the mental health of its victims, e.g people seeking refuge from the war in Syria?