

Question for written answer E-007329/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Measures to relieve pressure in the hotspots on the Aegean Islands

On 19 September 2016, fresh incidents took place in the Moria hotspot in Lesbos, between refugees and illegal immigrants of different nationalities, resulting in fires on land to the north and south and within the camp itself, requiring the intervention of the Fire Department. More than 4 000 refugees and illegal immigrants have left the hotspot site, whilst the Fire Department speaks of the complete destruction of shelters and the tents.

According to official data, on 29 September 2016, 14 003 guests were in the hotspots of the Aegean Islands, although these sites only have space for up to 7 450 people.

In addition, as at 28 September 2016, only 4 455 refugees had been relocated from Greece to other Member States of the total of 66 400 agreed upon.

Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos, in answer to our question P-002541/2016, admits that 'overall progress falls far short of the rate of relocation the Commission would consider achievable including that of the target of 20 000 by 16 May 2016 which has not been reached'.

What initiatives will the Commission take, in cooperation with the Greek authorities, to relieve the pressure in the hotspots on the Aegean Islands and thus restore the security of its inhabitants?