

**Question for written answer E-007813/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Migrant trafficking and smuggling

While recognising the significant efforts the EU has made in order to deal with the European migrant crisis, it seems that its main reasons and some of its negative effects remain untackled. Not only are the migrants being forced to leave their countries of origin by wars and conflicts, but on the way to salvation they are threatened by trafficking and by the potential danger of permanent separation from their families.

1. Bearing this in mind, how does the Commission plan to foster in practical terms the EU actions in support of the Member States in combating the dimensions and the impact of the smuggling, considering that based on data received, this activity has generated between USD 3bn and USD 6bn IN profit in the course of just last year and that some 90 % of the migrants had paid to make their way to the EU's Schengen zone?
2. Is there also a need for an additional legislative and practical effort which will help prevent poverty and illegal practices during the search for asylum?
3. Does the Commission envisage additional measures with a focus on trafficking of specifically vulnerable groups such as women and children, and elderly and handicapped people?