

**Question for written answer E-001564/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Elena Valenciano (S&D) and Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D)

Subject: Humanitarian visas

On 7 March 2017, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled in Case C-638/16 PPU – referring to an urgent preliminary ruling procedure in the case of a family of Syrian refugees who had applied for a humanitarian visa at the Belgian embassy in Beirut under the EU Visa Code – that, insofar as there is no act of Union law providing for a Community-wide procedure for the granting of humanitarian visas, national law is applicable.

Given the humanitarian emergency and the tragedy involved in the so-called ‘refugee crisis’ and in the light of the judgment cited above:

1. Does the Commission not consider it appropriate to submit a special legislative proposal, outside the Visa Code, which provides for the establishment at European level of a humanitarian visa to strengthen legal access channels to Europe?
2. What further action does the Commission intend to take to prevent hundreds of thousands of people who are eligible for international protection being forced to risk their lives and those of their families by embarking on perilous journeys, often in inhuman conditions, in order to be able to submit their applications for asylum on European soil?