

**Question for written answer E-001878/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Right to asylum viewed incorrectly

According to figures published by Eurostat, over 1.2 million applications for asylum were filed in 2016, almost as many as in 2015. These figures are twice those recorded in 2014.

Faced with the migration crisis, some Member States are introducing new control systems in an attempt to stem the flow of migrants. Hungary, for example, has decided to bring back the systematic detention of asylum seekers in transit zones and has started to build a second fence to protect Schengen Area borders. Meanwhile, it is estimated that there are nearly 80 000 migrants currently travelling along the Balkan route and the breakdown of the EU-Turkey Agreement seems likely.

At the same time, and despite national misgivings that have reared their heads in recent months, the Commission insists on threatening Member States that refuse to accept its relocation scheme for asylum seekers, notably Hungary, Poland and Austria.

1. Why, in these circumstances, is the Commission persisting in its attempts to impose the scheme?
2. Matters being what they are, should this not instead prompt the Commission to review the criteria for granting asylum so that it is regarded as a privilege rather than an entitlement?