

**Question for written answer E-002246/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)**

Subject: VP/HR - Relations with Algeria and the migration crisis

On 13 March the European Union and Algeria renewed their association agreement, with the EU's High Representative describing Algeria as a 'key partner'. At a time when Europe is confronting the major challenge of immigration – a challenge to our very civilisation – this issue should be the primary focus of any EU cooperation deal with Algeria. In the light of this, can the High Representative tell us:

- Was there any mention during these discussions of the boom in the number of Schengen visas granted to Algerian nationals? This was the case in France in particular, suggesting that the authorities there have relaxed the visa process (quicker delivery and extension of residency permits).
- Was the subject of illegal immigration raised and have any solutions been found to solve this problem? We recall that in 2016 Frontex recorded a sharp rise in the number of illegal Algerian immigrants in the EU, whose number is expected to rise further in the near future; moreover, while Algeria is recognised as being one of the main transit countries for illegal immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa, details about this route remain sketchy due in large part to the reluctance of the Algerian authorities to become involved.