

Question for written answer E-003496/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Construction of new hotspots in Greece and Italy

On 25 April 2017, the European Union Court of Auditors published a special report entitled '**EU response to the refugee crisis: the "hotspot" approach**'. In this report the Court noted that, in the wake of the EU-Turkey declaration, the length of stay of migrants in the hotspots had passed from a few days in transit to a much longer period, which raised issues of overcrowding.

In its report, the Court pointed out that the hotspots in Greece were overcrowded and that more such hotspots needed to be created. As regards Italy, the Court recalled that in November 2016 the Commission had asked Italy to open two additional hotspots and specified that 70% of migrants had disembarked on the Italian coasts outside these hotspots during the first seven months of 2016.

In view of the above, can the Commission state what progress has been made in the construction and opening of new hotspots in Greece and Italy?

What human and financial resources does the Commission intend to deploy in order to help Italy and Greece develop the hotspot approach so as to increase their reception capacity and also to cover arrivals outside such hotspots?