

**Question for written answer E-004232/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: The plight of Venezuelan refugees in Spain

As a result of the political, economic and humanitarian crisis that Venezuela is experiencing, the number of EU asylum applications from Venezuelans has increased five-fold over the past year, according to Eurostat.

In Spain, there are more asylum seekers from Venezuela than from any other country, including Syria. Over the past five years, however, the Spanish Government has only granted asylum in six cases.

Venezuelan asylum seekers are being discriminated against, and they are at risk of becoming marginalised, because they cannot receive their pensions and they have no access to currency or to the labour market. At the same time, applications are not being dealt with in the six-month time period laid down by law, which is making the situation worse.

Given the seriousness of the situation described above, and given that there is EU legislation on asylum that must be adhered to:

1. Is the Commission intending to take any steps to address the Venezuelan refugee crisis in the EU?
2. Is the Commission intending to urge the Spanish Government to comply with the asylum application processing time limits that are laid down in law?
3. How is the Commission going to ensure that Venezuelan asylum seekers have access to the EU labour market, and enjoy all the other rights they have as refugees?