

**Question for written answer E-007563/2017  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Cătălin Sorin Ivan (S&D)**

Subject: Winter preparation in refugee 'hotspots'

Last winter, enduring freezing weather conditions and heavy snowfall in refugee 'hotspots' such as Lesbos resulted in highly dangerous and unhealthy living conditions in reception camps. Some people died of carbon monoxide poisoning after attempting to warm their tents with makeshift heating devices, while others were killed when a gas canister they had been using to heat their camp exploded. These cases show the desperate lengths to which many refugees go in an attempt to escape the cold.

The Commission has addressed its concerns and criticisms with regard to the management of the situation to the Greek Government. Now, however, as temperatures fall and Europe experiences its first snowfall of the season, the question arises as to how planning for the winter period can be improved this year.

1. Is sufficient pressure being put on national authorities to develop appropriate action plans to prevent serious incidents such as these and provide refugees with better resources to protect them against extreme weather?
2. What plans are there to safeguard the lives and health of men, women and children in 'hotspots' during the winter?