

**Question for written answer E-002918/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Dominique Martin (ENF)**

Subject: The Commission's silence on billionaire African presidents

In 2017, France issued a record 262 000 first residence permits to non-EU citizens<sup>1</sup>. However, in France, there are already 6 million unemployed people, 9 million living in poverty and 4 million in inadequate housing. There is also an astronomic public debt (100% of GDP)<sup>2</sup>. This reality, overlooked by both Paris and Brussels, has led to the growth, over recent decades, of ghetto-like housing developments crammed with migrants and their descendants who face extreme poverty and unemployment.

In 2017, the EU accepted the arrival of 650 000 additional asylum applicants<sup>3</sup>. The President of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, has also criticised the lack of Member State solidarity with Africa and announced that EUR 2.7 billion of EU taxpayers' money would be set aside to create employment opportunities throughout Africa<sup>4</sup>.

Why has the Commission not called for a solidarity contribution from African billionaires, such as the President of Angola (net worth USD 31 billion), the President of Equatorial Guinea (net worth USD 0.6 billion)<sup>5</sup> and the King of Morocco (net worth USD 6 billion), who have been buying up real estate in Europe, including a number of castles<sup>6,7</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/politique/2018/01/18/31001-20180118ARTFIG00112-en-2017-l-immigration-reguliere-bat-tous-les-records.php?redirect\\_premium](http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/politique/2018/01/18/31001-20180118ARTFIG00112-en-2017-l-immigration-reguliere-bat-tous-les-records.php?redirect_premium)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/politique/2018/01/18/31001-20180118ARTFIG00112-en-2017-l-immigration-reguliere-bat-tous-les-records.php?redirect\\_premium](http://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/politique/2018/01/18/31001-20180118ARTFIG00112-en-2017-l-immigration-reguliere-bat-tous-les-records.php?redirect_premium)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:First\\_time\\_asylum\\_applicants\\_in\\_the\\_EU-28\\_by\\_citizenship,\\_Q4\\_2016\\_%E2%80%93\\_Q4\\_2017.png](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=File:First_time_asylum_applicants_in_the_EU-28_by_citizenship,_Q4_2016_%E2%80%93_Q4_2017.png)

<sup>4</sup> State of the Union Address [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_SPEECH-17-3165\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-17-3165_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> <https://afriquetimes.com/classement-des-10-presidents-africains-les-plus-riches-en-2017/>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/07/05/trois-ans-de-prison-amende-et-confiscation-requis-contre-teodorin-obiang\\_5156138\\_3212.html](http://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2017/07/05/trois-ans-de-prison-amende-et-confiscation-requis-contre-teodorin-obiang_5156138_3212.html)

<sup>7</sup> <https://ledesk.ma/2016/04/04/lhotel-de-brogie-le-joyau-parisien-de-mohammed-vi-cite-dans-les-panama-papers/>