

**Question for written answer E-003151/2018  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: The EU and Tunisia

In January 2018, the 7th anniversary of the 'Tunisian Revolution' was marked by a wave of protests which led to dozens of arrests in that country.

Since 2017, the number of people leaving Tunisia for Italy has increased exponentially. According to data from UNHCR and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 4 500 people – almost all Tunisian – arrived in Italy in 2017, four times more than the previous year. More than 3 000 arrived between September and mid-October alone. The main cause of this increase has been Tunisia's worsening socio-economic and political problems, including high unemployment.

Tunisia has an Association Agreement with the European Union as part of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

In a joint statement, High Representative Federica Mogherini and Tunisian Minister for Foreign Affairs Khemaies Jhinaoui stated: 'the EU will deploy all the necessary tools to encourage the socio-economic reforms intended to offer Tunisians, and particularly young people, opportunities for employment and social progress, for investment and for reducing regional disparities' (18 April 2016).

1. What measures has the Commission taken to tackle this situation?
2. How have the economic reforms proposed by the EU improved the socio-economic situation in Tunisia?