

**Question for written answer E-004403/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Financial assistance for countries neighbouring Venezuela

Venezuela is deeply mired in a political, social, economic and humanitarian crisis with no apparent end in sight. The International Monetary Fund is currently predicting a 13 000% inflation rate for 2018, translating into an average price increase of almost 1.5 % per hour. 87 % of the population is now affected by poverty and 61.2 % by extreme poverty.

One of the most visible effects of this crisis is the growing wave of migrants, with over 2 million Venezuelans having fled the country between 2014 and 2018, placing enormous pressure on neighbouring countries, notably Colombia and Brazil, which are having to cope with a large influx of people, many of whom are in very poor health and severely undernourished.

The Commission has announced a new aid package of EUR 35.1 million, in addition to the EUR 37 million already earmarked for EU humanitarian and cooperation projects. However, a number of local authorities are intimating that this will be insufficient to deal with the growing scale of the crisis.

In view of this, would the Commission, if necessary, be able to provide a new financial aid package for countries neighbouring Venezuela?