

**Question for written answer E-004410/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Growing tensions in border areas between Brazil and Venezuela

The Brazilian state of Roraima has been a major escape route for Venezuelan migrants fleeing their country's grave political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis.

More than 12 000 Venezuelans are arriving in Roraima, one of the poorest states in Brazil, every month. Venezuelans already make up more than 7% of the population in the state's capital, Boa Vista, and their number is expected to exceed 60 000 by the end of the year, putting the city's public services, particularly public health care and education, under enormous pressure.

Tensions have risen on the border. On 18 August there were confrontations between local inhabitants and Venezuelan migrants in the Brazilian city of Pacaraima. The two biggest makeshift refugee camps were attacked, the refugees were forcibly removed and their belongings burned.

The situation has worsened to such an extent that calls for the closure of borders have been made in several of Venezuela's neighbouring countries.

In view of this situation, what short-term measures is the Commission in a position to take to calm the growing tensions in border areas?