**Question for written answer E-005685/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Reaction from the Commission to Austria's unilateral decision to withdraw its support for the UN Agreements on migration and refugees

Austria, which holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU, decided, following the example of the USA and Hungary, not to sign the UN Global Migration Pact for safe and legal migration, citing the reason that it supposedly restricts the sovereignty of the State.

Bearing in mind that:

such unilateral decisions do not address the global challenge of the refugee question, but instead breach the principles of solidarity, burden and liability sharing, as well as undermine the foundations and process of European unification, and provide a breeding ground for extreme nationalistic organisations,

the unilateral decision by Austria is in direct conflict with the decisions of the Council and the announcements made by the Commission to date, as well as the position of the country as the head negotiator of the EU, and also the position of almost all Member States which supported and contributed to the drafting of the Agreements,

this decision creates a major political divide for the single position and undermines the credibility of the EU internationally, while it also exacerbates the differences on the refugee question within the Council.

Can the Commission say:

1. How does Austria’s unilateral decision influence the single position, the credibility and the international obligations assumed by the EU, in the context of the UN Global Pacts?

2. How does the Commission plan to react to said decision, which undermines the principles of solidarity, burden and liability sharing, and also the commitments made by the EU?