Question for written answer E-005730/2018 to the Commission
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: Prepaid cards for migrants

Reporting on the present movement of 'refugees' at the border between Bosnia and Croatia, the media consistently state that many of the migrants possess prepaid cards with the EU and UNHCR logos on. According to a Slovenian news portal, no identification documents are necessary to use the prepaid cards. Even the Austrian Ministry of the Interior acknowledges the provision of prepaid cards to 'refugees'.

The prepaid cards are apparently distributed to migrants by the 'refugee' aid organisation, International Refugee Committee (IRC). The organisation announced a change in their technical system for supporting migrants on their homepage in 2017, according to which the prepaid cards are distributed to migrants in IRC-run shelters for 'refugees' in Greece to support them in their onwards journey to central Europe. Since the EU's logo is also printed on the prepaid cards which were given out, the European Union is cooperating with the distribution of the cards.

- 1. How is the European Union cooperating with the IRC, and also with the UNHCR and, if applicable, other organisations, to distribute prepaid cards to 'refugees'?
- 2. How many prepaid cards have been distributed to migrants to date, and in which of the EU's Member States?
- 3. How much money can migrants withdraw using the prepaid cards distributed?

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