

Question for written answer E-000079/2019
to the Commission
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: Trafficking in documents of 'refugees' on social networks

The Austrian Federal Chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, recently spoke to the media about reports that a 'flea market' for the exchange of German residence permits had been established on the Facebook social network. It is said that so-called refugees are offering their German travel documents, which confer residence rights, to compatriots who are stranded in Greece and elsewhere and who resemble them. To quote the head of the Austrian Government verbatim: 'These allegations need to be investigated immediately. If they prove to be true, Facebook has a duty to take measures against trafficking in documents. Our aim must be to fight people smugglers, particularly those using social media, and to smash their business model.'

1. What information does the Commission have about the fact that German residence permits are being illegally offered for exchange or purchase on social networks?
2. What has the Commission done or will it do to obtain more precise information on this trafficking in documents on social networks?
3. What efforts has the Commission made, or will it take, for example in cooperation with Facebook, to stop illegal trafficking in documents on social networks?