

**Question for written answer E-000153/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sotirios Zarianopoulos (NI)

Subject: Poor living conditions faced by stranded refugees and immigrants, made worse by wintery conditions

Thousands of refugees and immigrants who remain under the responsibility of the EU and the SYRIZA-ANEL Government are having to contend with harsh winter conditions and terrible living conditions in Aegean Island hotspots (Lesvos, Chios, Samos, etc.) or in on the mainland (Diavata, Thessaloniki, for example). In addition to overpopulation, unacceptable health and hygiene conditions and malnutrition, they now have to cope with the unbearable freezing temperatures, which can sometimes prove fatal – especially for those who are living in tents.

This situation has occurred as a result of the ineffective policies taken by the EU and the Greek Government, given that their decisions – and in particular the EU-Turkey agreement – are keeping refugees and migrants trapped where they are, while the funds being distributed directly to NGOs and other large enterprises are stripped from state structures – a situation that entrenches the long-term shortage of infrastructure and staff, while local and regional administrations do nothing.

Does the Commission not take the view that there is a need for:

- urgent action to ensure decent and humane living conditions for refugees in secure, sheltered and heated areas for the duration of their stay in Greece and until they are transferred to their countries of destination?
- The closure of all hotspots and the transfer of refugees and migrants directly to mainland Greece, and then on to the countries they are travelling to, with all the necessary documents?