

**Question for oral answer O-000125/2011  
to the Council**

Rule 115

**Heidi Hautala, H el ene Flautre, Judith Sargentini**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Subject: Readmission agreements

In the Stockholm Programme, the Council asked the Commission to present an evaluation of EU readmission agreements and ongoing negotiations. On 23 February the Commission presented a Communication on the evaluation of, and future strategy for, EU readmission agreements. Council conclusions on this communication are to be adopted at the Council meeting in June.

The readmission agreements have been criticised, especially by civil society, human rights practitioners and the European Parliament, for not respecting the human rights of the readmitted persons. The principle of non-refoulement is a cornerstone of international human rights law and must be respected. However, this norm has not been fully respected by the EU Member States during the years since the 9/11 attack in 2001. As the Commission has pointed out, comprehensive data on readmissions is not available and there is no mechanism to monitor what happens to persons after their readmission is completed.

It seems that there is a need to review the whole EU readmission policy in order to correct its flaws.

- Is the Council going to present a revised readmission policy in June?
- Is the Council going to follow the Commission's recommendations 10-15 to enhance human rights guarantees in readmission agreements, especially on monitoring the situation of persons readmitted and on a suspension clause in the event of violation of fundamental rights?
- Will the Council require more statistics and data, especially about the asylum application process of a readmitted person, to be gathered in order to provide a useful basis for assessing the implementation of the readmission agreements?
- Is the Council going to ensure that the readmission policy is transparent and that the public has access to the bilateral implementation protocols?
- How will the Council react to the other recommendations made by the Commission, especially on evaluating the concrete need for third-country national clauses?

Tabled: 17.5.2011

Forwarded: 18.5.2011

Deadline for reply: 8.6.2011