

**Question for oral answer O-000100/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 128

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Humanitarian emergency in the Mediterranean: supporting local and regional authorities

In the current context of both national and European asylum and migration policies, local communities and local and regional authorities (LRAs) have been called on numerous occasions to face challenges related to the reception and integration of refugees and migrants. In spite of their willingness and efforts to welcome and host refugees and migrants, LRAs do not have access to proper funding, due either to the lack of a proper legal framework, or to policy choices, thus making it extremely difficult for them to provide the necessary support and services upon the arrival of refugees and migrants, or for their integration. Failure to do so increases the risk of making the refugees and migrants vulnerable to ruthless exploitation and to economic and social subjugation by criminal organisations.

Taking this situation into account, what is the Commission's stance on the following?

1. The need for an overall reform of EU asylum and migration policies to move towards sustainable and fair solutions that would be in line with both the EU's and Member States' obligations under international law.
2. Facilitating LRAs' access to the Emergency Assistance Instrument and giving LRAs the opportunity to obtain increased funding and direct access to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) as well as other relevant funding under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) in a way that would allow them to provide services that fully respect the dignity of the refugees and migrants on first reception and in relation to their long-term integration, with a special focus on health care, social support, housing, education and other integration measures.
3. The creation of a platform to facilitate exchanges and the sharing of best practices between LRAs as well as synergies between them and civil society in such a way as to allow them to be eligible under the relevant funds.

Tabled: 13.9.2018

Forwarded: 17.9.2018

Deadline for reply: 24.9.2018