

**Question for written answer P-009333/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Mariya Gabriel (PPE)

Subject: Temporary relocation scheme for asylum seekers in Bulgaria

The overall rise in the number of asylum applications, mainly by refugees from Syria, has affected Bulgaria in a disproportionate manner, with the largest increase noted in 2012 and 2013.

In its European Agenda on Migration released on 13 May 2015, the Commission announced a temporary European relocation scheme for asylum seekers in order to relieve frontline Member States. The relocation would be based on a 'distribution key', which for Bulgaria was estimated at 1.25 %.

In light of the new decision establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece, issued on 28 May, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. Why was the 'distribution key' for Bulgaria modified from 1.25 % to 1.43 %, even though the weighting of the criteria remained unchanged and even though both figures were calculated on the basis of statistical information provided by Eurostat on 8 April 2015?
2. Why does the proposal only take into account the variation between 2013 and 2014?
3. On what grounds has the Commission concluded that a certain threshold of urgency and severity is not met in Bulgaria, when its reception capacities are already stretched to their limits?