

**Question for written answer P-012941/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lorenzo Fontana (ENF)

Subject: Operation of the CARA asylum centre in Italy

Reports that the CARA asylum seekers reception centre in Mineo, Sicily, is only to host a small proportion of asylum seekers have caused huge controversy. The most recent on-the-spot inspection at the centre found there to be no Syrians, and just three Eritreans. Most of its occupants appear simply to be economic migrants whose stays – owing to the lengthy bureaucratic procedures and volumes of appeals – have far exceeded the maximum reception period.

The local branch of the CGIL trade union has also reported that the centre is being used by local gang-masters to recruit workers. Since the centre's occupants are free to move around, many end up working in the fields for next to nothing. This is according to investigators conducting an enquiry at the centre and has been admitted by those who run it.

In view of the above, can the Commission state:

- whether it has launched any investigations into this matter?
- what its views are on closing the CARA, as has been suggested in some political circles?
- how it can justify not taking action on this matter – should no investigations have been launched – considering that the issue is such a sensitive one and the focus of so much attention from the EU?