

**Question for written answer P-013239/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Refugee trafficking

There has been a steady increase in recent months in the number and scale of people-trafficking networks inside the European Union, moving people between Member States. According to Europol, as many as 30 000 individuals may be involved in the trafficking gangs. There has been a 40% year-on-year increase, for example, in the number of traffickers arrested bringing immigrants into Germany.

The most common practice is for traffickers to provide the refugees with cars and drivers, but cases have been recorded in the past few months of ordinary EU citizens using their own cars to transport refugees in return for payment. Very recently a racket was also uncovered in Bulgaria involving taxi drivers illegally transporting foreign nationals to the border.

- Is the Commission aware of the increasing number of refugee traffickers within the EU?
- What steps does the Commission intend to take to counter the unlawful trafficking of refugees between Member States?