

**Question for written answer P-014695/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Inês Cristina Zuber (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Delay in the transfer of refugees

In September, on a proposal from the Commission, the Council and Parliament approved the relocation of 160 000 asylum-seekers from Italy, Greece, and Hungary to other Member States. Whatever the limitations of that measure, it is undoubtedly the case that authorities, institutions, organisations, and volunteers in a number of countries have taken the initiative of preparing for the reception of refugees. In Portugal, 4 500 refugees are to be accommodated under the EU relocation programme. To date, however, not one refugee has arrived in Portugal under this EU programme. The President of the Portuguese Council for Refugees has described it as unacceptable that Portuguese organisations should have been kept waiting for two months. This is an intolerable situation, given that refugees are living under such dire conditions in Italy, Greece, and several Balkan countries.

- Why are these delays occurring in the process of transferring and transporting refugees to host countries?
- What immediate steps is the Commission taking to resolve the problem?