

**Question for written answer P-000966/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jan Keller (S&D)

Subject: Statements by the First Vice-President of the Commission: the motives and countries of origin of migrants seeking to enter the EU

The Vice-President of the Commission, Frans Timmermans, announced on 27 January 2016, with reference to hitherto unpublished statistics by the EU border agency Frontex, that up to 60% of new arrivals were now economic migrants coming from countries where there is no conflict. He reported that this was a turnaround in the refugee crisis.

Two days later, the EUobserver website accused Mr Timmermans of not telling the truth. Frontex data from December 2015, they say, prove that a clear majority of refugees still come from war-torn countries. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has endorsed this view.

Can the Commissioner clarify whose statements on this important disputed issue are correct?