

**Question for written answer P-001680/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Legal clarity for NGOs and volunteers providing humanitarian assistance

Particularly over the past year, NGOs and volunteers have been providing crucial assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in order to fill the void in terms of a coordinated humanitarian response from Member State governments and the EU.

In its recent communication 'Progress Report on the Implementation of the hotspots in Greece', issued on 15 December 2015, the Commission states:

'Coordination needs to be further improved by making systematic and effective use of the coordination mechanisms that have been put in place. Appointed coordinators for the islands should be empowered [...] to coordinate all relevant governmental and non-governmental players involved in the hotspot locations.'

The Greek Government has responded by setting up a committee to register, classify and coordinate the NGOs operating on Lesbos.

Could the Commission clarify the intentions behind its push for increased coordination of NGOs and volunteers working on the ground, as concerns have been raised about the appropriateness of the information required?

Given that current EU law does not provide legal certainty for NGOs and volunteers who provide humanitarian assistance to those seeking protection in the EU, can the Commission clarify the legal situation in its upcoming review of Directive 2002/90/EC defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence?