

Question for written answer P-002017/2016
to the Council
Rule 130
Sander Loones (ECR)

Subject: Opinion from the Council's Legal Service concerning a ceiling on the number of asylum applications

It has been reported in the media that on 2 March 2016 the Council's Legal Service gave a presentation at a meeting of EU ambassadors in which it indicated that in principle it would not be contrary to international and/or European law to impose a ceiling on the number of asylum applications to be considered, but that this would on the other hand depend, inter alia, on the reception conditions in the EU Member State concerned.

1. This is a fact of fundamental importance, which should also be debated at our Parliament. I would therefore ask the Council to send a written record of this opinion, or of the preparatory work for it, to all members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).
2. If the reply to the first question is negative, I would ask the Council to answer the following question. According to the Council, or its Legal Service, would a ceiling on the number of asylum applications to be considered or on the number of recognised refugees to be admitted accord with international and European law, whether or not subject to certain conditions?