

**Question for written answer P-002776/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Constance Le Grip (PPE)

Subject: Use and trafficking of blank passports stolen in Syria, Iraq and Libya

Fabrice Leggeri, Director of the European Frontex Agency, explained on 1 September 2015 that a trade in fake Syrian passports had emerged. One of the conclusions of the Marrakech Security Forum, which took place on 12 and 13 February 2016, highlighted this trade, which is being stoked by the capture of stocks of blank identity documents in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

Interpol estimates that the Islamic State (IS) group now has more than 200 000 travel documents enabling terrorists to travel – including on European soil – and also to enrich themselves through selling on those fake passports, which seem to be proliferating within the EU and, in particular, in Turkey.

Following the attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015 and in Brussels on 22 March 2016, investigations demonstrated that a number of terrorists had crossed the EU's external borders using fake passports. Strong and effective measures should therefore be considered.

1. Does the Commission plan to take action while drawing on the information held by Interpol, including its database, which lists the serial numbers of passports stolen in Raqqa?
2. Is the Commission considering proposing steps that would make these identity documents void?