

**Question for written answer P-000123/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Concern over the cold snap and the long-term situation of migrants

Faced with the cold snap in several parts of Europe and the Middle East, which could prove fatal for thousands of refugees both within and outside the EU, various humanitarian organisations have condemned their treatment by the EU and its Member States as negligent and failing to provide assistance. By entering into an agreement with Turkey and shutting down the Balkan route, the EU has decided to make third countries the guardians of its borders, thus contravening international law, which guarantees protection to persons fleeing war and conflict zones.

1. What is the Commission doing to help refugees whose lives are in danger and to expedite family reunifications and resettlement? Will it call on the Greek Government to transfer these people to mainland Europe? Will that resettlement be open to everyone in need of protection, regardless of when they arrived, in line with the provisions of international law?
2. What assistance is the Commission providing to the 7 500 persons or more who are stranded in Serbia? Has it restricted the provision of humanitarian aid?
3. What equitable long-term solutions is it planning in order to prevent a catastrophic situation arising?