

Question for written answer E-012677/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Lucas Hartong (NI)

Subject: Pressure on the Member States from asylum seekers

It was stated at the meeting of the Committee on Budgets on 4 November that a number of Member States are facing a sudden influx of a large number of asylum seekers. This will bring about an extraordinarily heavy burden on reception facilities, the asylum system and the infrastructure of the Member States in question and requires urgent action. In response, the Commission has reallocated EUR 14.4 to cover the reception and housing of asylum seekers. In addition, the Commission is proposing to redeploy EUR 18 million from savings in other programmes to budget line 18 03 04 for emergency measures in the event of mass influxes of refugees.

1. Does the Commission agree with me that this influx of immigrants is a consequence of EU policy, given that respecting and promoting the right of asylum are at the very heart of the Union's efforts to build an area of freedom, security and justice (Commissioner Malmström)?
2. Does the Commission believe that the European Council in Tampere in 1999 encouraged applications for asylum in the EU by establishing a Common European Asylum System, which was then realised via the Stockholm Programme?
3. If the influx of asylum seekers into the EU is the result of the conscious policy of the Union, why is the Committee on Budgets referring to an emergency situation?
4. If the influx of asylum seekers into the EU is the result of the conscious policy of the Union, how does the Commission explain a EUR 32.4 million hole in the budget?