

**Question for written answer E-000071/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL), Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL), Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL), Emmanouil Glezos (GUE/NGL), Georgios Katrougkalos (GUE/NGL), Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL), Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL), Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL), Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL), Eleonora Forenza (GUE/NGL), Pablo Iglesias (GUE/NGL), Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL), Pablo Echenique (GUE/NGL), Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL), Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL), Soraya Post (S&D), Kashetu Kyenge (S&D), Josef Weidenholzer (S&D), Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL), Elly Schlein (S&D), Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL), Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL) and Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Syrian refugees in Athens

More than 200 Syrian refugees in Athens have been on hunger strike since 19 November 2014, calling for travel documents that would enable them to travel to other Member States. The Greek government has told them that it cannot comply with its obligations under international and European law to secure them a decent life. Thanks to the Dublin Regulations, the refugees' only option remains the submission of asylum requests to Greece, as the country of first entry.

The Commission is asked:

1. What options do the Syrian refugees have to legally travel and submit asylum requests to other Member States in order to benefit from:
  - the sovereignty clause, which allows Member States to examine asylum requests when the Member State responsible reveals systemic flaws in the asylum procedure and reception conditions;
  - the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, which provides, in a spirit of solidarity, for full consideration for those Member States receiving disproportionate influxes of immigrants?
2. Are there plans to implement intra-EU relocation programmes, such as EUREMA, for Syrian refugees residing in Greece?
3. What actions does it intend to take to relieve the Member States that form part of the external borders of the EU from the massive influx of asylum seekers, also in line with the UNHCR pledges?