

**Question for written answer E-000420/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Paavo Väyrynen (ALDE)

Subject: Situation at the border between Russia and the Schengen area

In recent weeks, many asylum-seekers have entered the Schengen area from Russia via Norway and Finland. Dozens of different nationalities are represented. The bulk of these people had previously spent long periods in Russia, which is a safe country.

Criminal activity is associated with the organisation of immigration. People seeking to make their way to Finland have been sold substandard cars. Large fees have been charged for organising travel.

The northern route is dangerous during the cold winter season. Recently, a man who was apparently an Indian national froze to death on his way to Finland when his car broke down.

The European Union should be in contact with the Russian authorities to slow this migration.

Is the Commission aware of the increase in immigration into the Schengen area via the northern route? Is the Commission prepared for the possibility that the situation may deteriorate? Has the Commission contacted the Russian authorities, or will it do so, in order to get this migration under control?