

**Question for written answer E-001052/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Cecilia Wikström (ALDE)

Subject: Statements made by Commission Vice-President Timmermans on arriving asylum seekers

Commission Vice-President Timmermans has been widely quoted in the media as stating that 60 % of migrants who arrived in Europe during December 2015 had no reasons to apply for asylum in Europe.

It is very unclear what the Commission Vice-President would have based such a statement on, given that under the normal procedure to determine who does and who does not fulfil the applicable criteria to receive asylum in Europe it often takes expert national authorities well over a year to reach a decision. It would thus seem almost impossible to make such a bold statement on any factual grounds so close to the arrivals.

Given that comments by both Frontex and the UNHCR seem to indicate that almost 90 % of asylum seekers arriving during this period came from countries that are plagued by military conflicts and have very high historic recognition rates for asylum-seekers, it would be helpful to know on what data the Commissioner was basing his comments.

Does the Commission consider these estimations to be accurate and, if so, what data does it have which would support such claims?