

Question for written answer E-002328/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Petr Ježek (ALDE)

Subject: Repeated refusal to grant access to Greek hotspots

On 23 September 2015 the European Commission published its communication COM(2015) 490 final to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council, Annex II to which sets out the procedure for support teams in hotspot areas. According to this annex the staff sent by EU agencies and Member States are to help identify, screen and register migrants on entry to EU territory.

Observers from the Member States may under Greek national regulations of January 2016 enter hotspots only with the agreement of the Greek Government or more precisely the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, the Czech relocation liaison officer was repeatedly refused access to hotspots in February and March 2016 even though the officers of other Member States were granted access.

This means that the Czech Republic does not have the capacity to monitor who is being received and admitted to the EU by Greece, or how this is done, how the registration of incoming migrants is conducted or what progress is being made with the establishment of new hotspots. Even though the Czech Republic is one of the most active countries in sending experts to EASO teams in hotspots, the Czech liaison officer for relocation does not therefore have access to Czech workers in the hotspots.

1. Is the Commission aware of this case of discrimination against the Czech Republic?
2. What steps does the Commission intend to take to remedy this situation?