

**Question for written answer E-003674/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Peter Lundgren (EFDD)**

Subject: Lifting border controls

On 2 May 2017, Commissioner Timmermans stated that within six months Austria, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden would have to lift the border controls they had introduced on account of the refugee crisis.

According to Mr Timmermans, it would be possible to do so because the external borders of the Schengen area had become stronger and more secure. He also observed that significant numbers of migrants were still coming to Europe, that the relocation of migrants must be facilitated and that better arrangements should be put in place for receiving them. Incidentally, according to the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) only 3 % of refugees are asylum-seekers.

1. Why does the Commission believe that it is more capable of judging the need for border controls than the Member States which will have to receive the incoming migrants?
2. On what does the Commission base its opinion that the external borders of the Schengen area are strong and secure enough to permit border controls within that area to be dismantled?
3. Over the past six months, how many illegal migrants have undergone identity checks during their attempts to cross the Mediterranean Sea and enter the Schengen area?