

**Question for written answer E-007820/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Javi López (S&D)**

Subject: Statements by the Council President concerning refugee policy

Over the last few days, the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, has been expressing a degree of scepticism regarding EU refugee policy. At the last Council meeting of 15 December, he called for an end to the quota system on the grounds that countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were failing to honour their commitments.

However, the quota system provides a sustainable and balanced means of ensuring that EU is able to meet its responsibilities in this regard.

Indeed, the refugee problem concerns us all and we must show ourselves capable of rising to the challenge and responding to this tragic situation in a spirit of fairness and solidarity.

What view does the Commission therefore take of the utterances of the Council President?

Does it agree that the refugee quota system should be ended? If so, what criteria should, in its view, be applied if a new system is introduced? Does it consider it necessary to implement and enforce a system of economic and political penalties for Member States that repeatedly fail to meet their commitments when it comes to providing shelter?