

**Question for written answer E-002461/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ska Keller (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Partial withdrawal of the European Asylum Support Office from Greece

Greece is the Member State with the largest number of arrivals of asylum seekers in the European Union. 7 500 people have arrived by sea on the Greek islands since the beginning of this year; another 2 900 people crossed the Greek-Turkish land border only last month. The majority of people coming this year have been families with children. Most of the asylum-seekers on the Greek islands fled from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Meanwhile, not only are the camps on the islands overcrowded, but so too the reception centres on the mainland. Most asylum seekers are stuck in the camps since asylum procedures are too slow and lengthy, despite the support of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

Can the Commission confirm rumours that the EASO is considering partially withdrawing personnel and resources from Greece and channelling them into Italy and Spain instead?

If so, does the Commission have alternative plans for supporting Greece?