

**Question for written answer E-000873/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Sergio Gaetano Cofferati (S&D) and Soraya Post (S&D)

Subject: Forced return of Afghan refugees

During the first few weeks of 2018, Afghanistan witnessed a large number of attacks, causing many fatalities. These violent incidents are only the latest episodes in a long-standing war that is damaging a country that usually features at the bottom of all the classifications for the human development index. In the past few years, thousands of civilians have been killed and many others forced to leave the country. In spite of this, some Member States (Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands), as well as Norway, are imposing the forced return of Afghan refugees.

The latest report from the BBC shows that the Afghan Government retains control of less than 30 % of the country, and 15 million civilians live in areas controlled by the Taliban.

Several humanitarian organisations have suspended their activities in the country, also in light of the fact that in 2016, Afghanistan ranked second place in the scoreboard of attacks against humanitarian personnel, and they have asked the European countries in question to stop the forced returns.

The forced return of Afghan refugees is likely to entail serious humanitarian consequences.

What solutions does the Commission intend to adopt in order to urge the Member States to stop these forced returns?