

**Question for written answer E-000023/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Kris Peeters** (PPE)

Subject: Processing times for asylum applications

There are far more return decisions than migrants who actually return. This leads to secondary migration within the Schengen area. Special report No 24/2019 of the European Court of Auditors identified the length of time it takes to process asylum cases as one of the reasons for this, citing the situation in both Greece and Italy.

According to data from the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the average processing times for first instance decisions in Italy went up from 264 days in 2015 to 437 days in 2018. However, under Italy's regular procedure, there is a maximum processing time of 33 days from the date of lodging a claim to the issue of a first instance decision.

1. What is the average processing time for asylum applications in the EU?
2. What is the average processing time for each Member State?
3. In the absence of legislative reforms of migration procedures, what efforts have the Commission and its relevant agencies made to speed up processing times?