

**Question for written answer E-004456/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The Malta declaration of 23 September 2019 and relocations

Temporary solidarity arrangements between EU Member States will never replace the much-needed reform of the Dublin asylum system. However, they can serve as temporary solutions in order to ensure prompt and predictable disembarkation for people rescued at sea. The Malta declaration of 23 September 2019 on a controlled emergency procedure was a step in this direction.

However, there is a huge lack of transparency and information around this mechanism and it still does not provide clarity on where disembarkation should be granted following specific search and rescue (SAR) operations. The closure of ports during the COVID-19 crisis demonstrates yet again the need for a mechanism to provide a prompt indication of the port where disembarkation will be granted in each specific case, in line with obligations under international law and to avoid keeping rescued people on ferry boats for weeks.

1. What are the average durations of relocation procedures from both Italy and Malta, and are they in line with the agreed standard operating procedures?
2. Which relocating Member States require additional interviews?
3. In 2019 and 2020, which countries pledged to relocate asylum seekers, how many places were pledged by each country, how many transfers were successfully carried out and how many cases are pending?