

**Question for written answer E-001735/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Establishing a procedure for classifying safe countries of origin

Asylum applications are currently on the rise in many Member States. A large number of these applications are pretty much doomed to fail. Examining these clearly unfounded applications requires considerable resources. Such applications should be processed more quickly. In this regard, Union law makes provision for countries to be classified as safe countries of origin. What is more, the Commission's 2015 recommendation (subsequently adopted by the Member States) that the Western Balkans be classified as safe countries of origin has shown that such an instrument leads to fewer applications and faster asylum procedures, without curtailing individuals' right to asylum. In January 2019, the Bundestag passed a law classifying Georgia, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia as safe countries of origin. In February 2023, the European Council called on the EU Asylum Agency to prepare guidelines to increase the use of the concepts of safe third countries and safe countries of origin and pave the way for a common EU list.

1. Does the Commission believe that the conditions have been met to classify Georgia, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia as safe countries of origin?
2. What is it doing to ensure that the safe country of origin designation, as a tried and tested instrument, is consistently and regularly applied in constitutional and Union law?
3. Is it working towards a common EU list of safe countries of origin?

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