

**Major interpellation for written answer G-001002/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 139

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on behalf of the ID Group

Subject: Ongoing migration crisis

According to media reports, the island of Lampedusa, a gateway for illegal migrants to Europe, was at its limit in mid-September, after more than 5 000 illegal migrants arrived on the island (as of 12 September 2023)¹. From 26 to 28 September, a delegation of the ID Group was in southern Italy and visited Lampedusa on 27 September 2023. No asylum seekers could be found in the asylum centre because it had been completely evacuated shortly before the visit. When the delegation left the following day, another 5 000 illegal migrants from the North African coast allegedly made their way to Lampedusa.

1. How many migrants arrived in Lampedusa this year? Could the Commission please break down those numbers by minor/adult status and nationality?
2. How many migrants arrived in Lampedusa this year per week? Could the Commission please break down number of arrivals per calendar week?
3. What specific measures is the Commission planning to adopt in order to reduce migration pressure on the island of Lampedusa, as well as on the EU as a whole?
4. To what extent would it be possible, and to what extent is it already feasible under the current legal framework, for migrants not to be taken to Member State islands such as Lampedusa, but instead to be taken to floating accommodation centres on the Mediterranean, where they would go through an asylum procedure before being allowed to enter EU territory?
5. What changes to the legal framework would be necessary to receive migrants in floating accommodation centres to process their asylum requests before they receive permission to enter EU territory?
6. Is the Commission aware that the Islamist terrorist who murdered two Swedish nationals in Brussels, Abdesalem Lassoued, a Tunisian national who came to the EU illegally via Lampedusa, had had his applications for asylum rejected by several Member States? Would it agree that this person never would have been able to enter the EU if it used floating centres to process asylum requests?

Submitted: 19.12.2023

¹ <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/italien-lampedusa-fluechtlinge-notstand-100.html>.