

**Question for oral answer O-000238/2011
to the Council**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

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on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

Subject: Establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme

Resettlement of refugees is usually considered, by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees among others, as the peaceful, orderly and durable solution for the most vulnerable of the refugees in protracted situations. The European Union has decided to reinforce its European Refugee Fund and to adopt a sustainable European refugee programme.

In May 2010 the European Parliament adopted a codecision report on the European Refugee Fund. This codecision has not been finished by the Council, reportedly because of divergences on the use of Article 290 TFEU (delegated acts) on the choice of priority regions for EU action.

In June 2011, the Council informally proposed a solution that consisted in the use of a partial codecision rather than delegated acts for the choice of priority regions. The European Parliament responded in the same month with a counter-proposal that envisages a full codecision procedure. There has been no answer from the Council since then.

The failure to codecide on this file has already made us waste two years of resettlement in the EU and, if we do not find a solution before the end of 2011, it will definitely jeopardise the planned use of the European Refugee Fund, which lapses in 2013. Member States will not receive the extra funds allocated by the European Refugee Fund. Refugees will still be waiting in camps and in some cases provide fodder for the human trafficking networks. The emergency mechanism provided for in this codecision and that we could have already used in the context of the Arab Spring is still inoperative, which has probably already resulted in loss of lives.

When will the Council give an answer on this file? Are the ERF and resettlement part of the upcoming agenda of Council meetings? Has the Council calculated the human consequences of the EU's inaction? Is the Council ready to enter fast-track negotiations with the Parliament in order to finish the codecision on this file? Can the Council propose any compromise or solution to start the resettlement programme?

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Deadline for reply: 28.10.2011