

**Question for written answer P-002339/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Ingeborg Gräßle (PPE)

Subject: EU-funded events on people smuggling

From 16 – 18 October 2015, the 2nd International 'Schlepper- und Schleusertagung' ('People Smuggling Congress') took place in Munich. It announced that its principal objective was to improve the image and bring about a re-evaluation of people smuggling as a service. The event was supported or co-financed by the EU's Europe for Citizens Programme, even though the EU and its Member States have been combating people smugglers and illegal migration for years.

- 1) On what grounds was this event supported by EU funds? How does the Commission explain the contradiction involved in combating people-smuggling while, at the same time, helping to improve the image of what is after all a crime?
- 2) What financial support was allocated to this event?
- 3) How many – and which – other events of this kind have been co-funded by EU funds?