

**Question for written answer P-003289/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Granting Georgia safe-country-of-origin status

Since early 2017 the number of applications for asylum in Germany submitted by Georgian nationals has increased significantly. According to the latest statistics, in the last few months the German authorities alone have registered roughly three times as many first-time applications from Georgians as in the whole of 2016. The number of asylum seekers from Georgia who qualify for protection is extremely low, however - no more than 2% in 2017.

Germany can grant countries such as Georgia safe-country-of-origin status. Under Article 16a(3) of the Basic Law in conjunction with paragraph 29a(1) of the law on asylum, safe countries of origin are countries in which, on the basis of an assessment of the overall political situation, it can be assumed that people do not suffer political persecution or inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment. If Georgia were to be granted safe-country-of-origin status, it would make it possible for Georgian nationals to be returned to their country more quickly and lawfully.

As the Commission monitors on an ongoing basis Georgia's commitment to continuing the process of political association and economic integration with the EU, can it point to evidence of political persecution or inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment which would militate against Georgia being granted safe-country-of-origin status?