

**Priority question for written answer P-003183/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Negotiation of an agreement with Egypt to prevent possible Palestinian refugees from entering the European Union

Since 7 October, Israeli military forces have been bombing the Gaza Strip, including hospitals, schools and shelters. In addition, supplies of food, water, fuel and electricity are being cut, white phosphorus is being used and ethnic cleansing is in progress. This is causing a catastrophic humanitarian emergency. The threat of invasion by Israel could entail the forced expulsion of up to two million people living in the Gaza Strip to Egypt, allowing Israel to occupy the territory for good.

Against this backdrop, the Commission is negotiating an agreement with Egypt to ensure that these potential refugees are held in Egypt and do not move to Europe. This is exacerbating the policy of containing flows and deaths of refugees who are fleeing a conflict in which the EU is actively taking part, is refusing to call for a ceasefire and is continuing to fund and supply arms to Israel.

1. What are the details of the agreement the Commission is negotiating with Egypt to provide funds in exchange for asylum seekers being prevented from leaving Egypt?
2. Does the Commission know what methods it will be funding to ensure the containment of large numbers of refugees in Egypt?

Submitted: 26.10.2023