Question for written answer E-015705/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Fiscal neutrality and the cost of managing the migration crisis

The financial impact of the migration and refugee problem is huge, particularly for the Member States under great pressure because of their geographical location.

Greece, as a gateway country, is under extraordinary pressure and this weighs disproportionately on its budget. The cost relates to the expenses incurred for the reception of refugees and the Greek contribution to cover the EUR 2.5 bn. to be paid to Turkey.

Exceptional costs arising because of the immigrant and refugee problem would normally be addressed in the corrective arm of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), so that the impact of the expenditure is neutral from a budgetary point of view. Greece, however, which is undergoing a special fiscal adjustment programme, will be excluded from whatever facilities are provided for by the SGP.

Bearing in mind Greece’s financial commitments to its creditors and the fact that it is struggling to cope with the impact of the refugee and migration issues on the deficit which encumbers its macroeconomic position and Greece’s solvency in the markets, will the Commission say:

- Will the countries undergoing a fiscal adjustment programme also benefit from a provision to take account of exceptional costs so that these costs are neutral from a budgetary point of view?

- Alternatively, how should the extraordinary impact on the deficit be addressed?