

Question for written answer E-014573/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Miroslav Poche (S&D)

Subject: EU budget - acknowledgment of solidarity among Member States

The European Parliament, in its resolution on the European Union general budget for the 2016 financial year, stresses that solidarity is a fundamental principle of the EU budget. Furthermore, it raises the concern that, faced with the current refugee crisis, solidarity is being demonstrated to varying degrees in different Member States. Parliament calls on the Commission to bring forward proposals detailing how the EU budget may be used to encourage a more balanced approach to the question of solidarity among Member States. Similar proposals have already been proposed in a number of statements by the most senior political representatives of the EU and certain Member States.

1. Does the Commission share the view that the EU budget should be used as a tool to apply political pressure on Member States?
2. If so, does it also share the conviction that this view ought to be reflected in the finance intended for structural funds?
3. What criteria will the Commission use to define whether a Member State has demonstrated sufficient or insufficient solidarity, and what means would be used to calculate the financial impact on structural funds or, where relevant, other forms of financial support under EU control?