

**Question for written answer E-015388/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (PPE)**

Subject: Blocked railway line between Greece and FYROM

A major problem is affecting the transport of freight by rail to and from northern Greece: since 18 November some 1 500 refugees and economic migrants have been staging a sit-down protest blocking the railway line between Thessaloniki and Skopje because of the FYROM authorities' refusal to allow them passage through their country. As a result, 1 800 railway wagons have been stranded both inside Greece and across the border, which is having a significant adverse impact on Greek imports and exports.

Indeed, this protest has so far cost TRAINOSE EUR 1.5 million, while major foreign companies that work with the transport companies that use this railway line are threatening to terminate their cooperation with Greece.

Bearing in mind that the informal meeting of EU and Western Balkan countries agreed on practical measures to strengthen cooperation between the countries located along the so-called 'Western Balkans Route', will the Commission say:

- Does it take the view that such actions by FYROM (closing borders, constructing a fence on the border with Greece) are constructive?
- Are the fundamental rights of refugees being violated by a candidate country?