

**Question for written answer E-014902/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Police violence and extortion inflicted on refugees

When I served on a delegation from the Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left, which travelled to the Balkan region, visited several refugee camps, and spoke with refugees themselves and non-governmental organisations that have been assisting them, I found out that there are many refugees claiming (and bearing visible physical marks to prove it) to have suffered brutal aggression and extortion at the hands of the Bulgarian police.

The evidence – gathered at the Dimitrovgrad camp, on the border between Serbia and Bulgaria – comes from people who have crossed Bulgaria by land. They speak of the use of dogs and night vision equipment and of shots fired, as well as of being imprisoned for days on end under subhuman conditions.

These reports of repeated gross human rights violations, perpetrated against defenceless victims (children included) fleeing war and chaos in their home countries, are such that it is imperative to establish the truth without delay and speak out.

1. What information does the Commission have about these occurrences and reports?
2. Can it guarantee that no equipment supplied or paid for by the EU is being used in these acts of brutal violence against refugees?