

**Question for written answer E-015105/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Kristina Winberg (EFDD)**

**Subject:** Registering fingerprints of third -country nationals or stateless persons found illegally staying in a Member State (Article 17)

EURODAC is a biometric database in which Member States are required to enter the fingerprint data of irregular migrants or asylum seekers in order to identify where they entered the EU and whether they have previously made asylum applications. The purpose is to facilitate the application of the Dublin Regulation, which determines the Member State responsible for processing an asylum claim.

Participating states are required to fingerprint all persons over the age of 14 who fall into one of the following three categories:

- applicants for international protection (Article 9);
- third-country nationals or stateless persons crossing the external border irregularly (Article 14);
- third-country nationals or stateless persons found illegally staying in a Member State (Article 17).

In contrast to the first two categories, registering fingerprints of migrants from category 3 is not mandatory.

1. In what way is it possible, according to the Commission, to combat illegal migration and prevent unauthorised residence, including repatriating persons residing without authorisation, if the EURODAC regulation is not amended when it comes to category 3 persons?
2. Given that combating trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is a highly prioritised subject on its agenda, how does the Commission intend to tackle this problem if the registering of fingerprints in the case of category 3 is not made mandatory?