

**Question for written answer E-015675/2015**  
**to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Pascal Arimont (PPE)**

Subject: Development of the role of Frontex

The main objective of the EU border protection agency Frontex is to coordinate cooperation in protecting the EU's external borders. The effective protection of the external borders is intended, inter alia, to ensure the proper functioning of the Schengen area. At the beginning of October, Fabrice Leggeri, the Director of Frontex, concerned at the refugee crisis and the ongoing terrorist threat, called for 775 more border guards to be deployed at the hotspots and for securing national borders. So far, only about 300 have been provided by Member States. As long as national decision-makers cannot resolve actively to support Frontex, the Agency will be unable to perform its duties in accordance with its mandate. The Frontex report recently debated in plenary confirms that European fundamental rights cannot be effectively protected because of the complex division of responsibilities in Frontex. Will the Council answer the following question with regard to the future mandate of Frontex:

- What steps is the Council taking to make the EU border protection agency more effective and more autonomous, so that it can better protect the Schengen area?
- What is preventing Member States from transforming Frontex into a unified, autonomous agency with real clout?