Question for written answer E-014396/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Mario Borghezio (ENF)

Subject: EU-Africa cooperation on migration

According to press reports on a Luxembourg Presidency working document, there are a number of bones of contention between the EU and countries in Africa in the run-up to the Valletta summit.

African countries appear to be opposed to the idea of building reception centres for asylum seekers in their own territories where Member States have the potential to house them themselves. This proposal is fuelling fears that European immigration policy might be 'externalised', thus in turn externalising EU asylum commitments.

This issue apparently remains highly controversial despite the benefits on offer to countries that decide to cooperate with the EU, which include a relaxed visa regime, participation in the Erasmus+ programme for young Africans and involvement in EU resettlement programmes.

Can the Commission say which African countries are refusing to shoulder responsibility for managing their own migration, despite the considerable benefits that are on offer? Given that the first thing to do in dealing with the migration problem must be to secure the cooperation of these countries, and that building reception centres for refugees, including in African countries, is of the utmost importance, what action is the Commission taking in response to this situation?

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