

Question for written answer E-015292/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Lack of response from Member States to the problem of refugee resettlement

On a proposal from the Commission and with the approval of the European Parliament, the Council adopted on 14 and 22 September 2015 a programme for the relocation to other Member States of 160 000 refugees/asylum seekers from Italy, Greece and Hungary. These decisions were prompted by considerations of solidarity and the fair sharing of responsibilities between all Member States in response to the unprecedented flow of asylum seekers and the resulting pressure on countries located on EU external borders.

On 27 November 2015, the European Commission published an updated list indicating the response of Member States to the problem of resettling refugees/asylum seekers from Greece and Italy, revealing that they were reluctant to make any significant contribution since, out of a total of 66.400, only 30 have been relocated from Greece¹, while the influx is continuing unabated².

In view of this:

1. What measures does the Council intend to take to accelerate the implementation of decisions regarding the relocation of 160 000 persons from Italy and Greece?
2. In the light of the initial disappointing results regarding contributions by the Member States to the resettlement programme, what are the chances of success for the Commission proposal establishing a crisis relocation mechanism (COM(2015) 450 final)?

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/press-material/docs/state_of_play_-_relocation_en.pdf

² http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/flash_read.php?ID=64