

Question for written answer E-015384/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: Inadequate protection of external borders

According to the Commission communication of 23 September 2015 entitled 'Managing the refugee crisis: immediate operational, budgetary and legal measures under the European Agenda on Migration', it has been possible to choke off the supply of ships and boats and the number of migrants has fallen. However, journalists' videos on the island of Lesbos on 16 November 2015 (three days after the attacks in Paris) show that checks on incoming migrants are still woefully inadequate, most vessels bringing in migrants manage to land them without being noticed by the (border) police and the people smugglers slip away again on board the same vessels to fetch more migrants. The police in the Member States cannot catch the smugglers and cannot check the identity of the new arrivals or whether they are bringing in any weapons. It is now known that some of the terrorists who carried out the Paris attacks arrived on EU territory together with migrants. Such people continue to move freely across the entire territory of the Union. Checks at external borders are only part of the solution to the problem, but their importance is such that they cannot be replaced.

Do Member States that do not carry out adequate, or indeed any, controls at their external borders face sanctions? If not, does the EU proposal for resolving these problems seek to introduce such sanctions?

Where all current measures are shown to be unsatisfactory, is it not possible, in view of the risk of terrorist attacks and further security threats, to overcome the inadequate protection of external borders by means of shortened decision-making procedures?

Does the Commission have any idea of the number of people carrying out daytime checks at external borders, for example on the island of Lesbos?