

**Question for written answer E-015784/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Decision to filter migrants by nationality

The unlawful decision to filter migrants, along the Balkan route, by nationality has led to a humanitarian emergency on Greece's border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Holding back migrants who are not Syrian, Iraqi, or Afghan nationals is an inhuman act which, among other things, calls the right of asylum into question, given that this cannot be subject to the sole criterion of the asylum-seeker's nationality.

Within the last few days the situation in Idomeni has been greatly worsened by the onset of bad weather. Thousands of people – including women and children – are being prevented from continuing on their way and left for days to go hungry in the cold and the rain. In spite of repeated protests, the situation has remained at a standstill for two weeks.

1. To what extent did the Commission specifically influence the decision to filter migrants by nationality?
2. Does it know how many migrants are affected and which places are experiencing the greatest problems? What is its assessment of the situation and what measures has it taken or will it take?
3. What forms of support has it mobilised to help relieve the plight of the thousands of migrants held back at the above-mentioned border or on other borders where the situation is the same?