

Question for written answer E-016138/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Measures to accelerate the resettlement of 160 000 refugees from Greece and Italy in other EU countries

The wars in the Middle East and North Africa are creating huge waves of refugees seeking a safe haven in the EU and, as a result, the number of refugees entering Greek territory is increasing rapidly. Indeed, there is a risk that these flows may soon become unmanageable.

At the European Council of September 2015, it was decided to resettle a total 160 000 refugees who had entered the Union from Greece and Italy in other EU countries.

However, in a brief report of 16 December, the Luxembourg Presidency acknowledged that the resettlement process is making hardly any headway, since by that date only 184 refugees had been resettled, including fewer than 100 from Greece!

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What proposals does it expect to put forward in the next quarter to complete the process of resettling these 160 000 refugees from Greece and Italy as rapidly as possible?
2. What measures does it intend to take vis-à-vis those Member States which, although obliged to accept refugees for resettlement, are dragging their feet or refusing to implement the relevant EU decisions on the resettlement of these refugees in breach of EU law?