

Question for written answer E-015450/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Hans-Olaf Henkel (ECR)

Subject: Syrian refugees and the international community

While many governments have been eager to join the military mission in Syria, the international community has largely been absent when it comes to the relocation of refugees. It seems as though the burden of this crisis has fallen entirely on Europe, and Germany in particular. This is a global challenge, but so far only 2 174 Syrian refugees have been admitted to the USA. According to UNHCR data, Australia has so far confirmed 5 800 resettlements, although it has pledged to resettle another 12 000 refugees. Switzerland has taken in 2 000 refugees, and France only 1 000. Moreover, Amnesty International has stated that Gulf countries, including Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, together with other nations such as Russia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea, have offered zero resettlement places. As this is a global issue, it requires a global solution, without the entire responsibility being shifted to a handful of countries. We must support the UN in moderating the resettlement of refugees globally.

Is the European Union planning to intervene, in particular at UN level, to ensure that refugees are resettled equitably among countries?

When funds are provided to countries hosting large numbers of refugees, such as Turkey, what mechanisms are put in place to ensure that the funds actually go where they are most needed?