Question for written answer E-002712/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud, Nicolas Bay

Subject: Planned measures to limit the risk of a second outbreak sweeping through Europe

At his hearing before the French Senate’s Committee for European Affairs on 8 April 2020, the Executive Director of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Fabrice Leggeri, expressed his concern that the current health crisis would end in the EU just as the pandemic was peaking in third countries, thus highlighting the risk of incoming migrants triggering a second wave of COVID-19 in Europe.

The Executive Director therefore recommended stepping up controls at the EU's external borders to minimise risks.

Moreover, in Greece, where there are 100 000 migrants, the Greek Minister for Migration and Asylum has reported that reception centres are overcrowded, with 43 000 people in a space designed for 8 000, leading to a heightened risk of COVID-19 spreading.

In order to limit the risk of a COVID-19 resurgence, does the Commission intend to take steps to enhance controls at the EU's external borders and encourage the Member States to do the same at the internal borders?

In addition, in order to contain the health risk in the Greek camps, does it intend to expedite the return of migrants whose asylum application has been rejected?