

**Question for written answer E-003279/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Ruža Tomašić (ECR)

Subject: Child victims of the Croatian War of Independence

During the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Croatia, a total of 402 children were killed and 1 260 wounded. Out of the total number of wounded children, 86 were left with permanent disabilities. Furthermore, 35 children had been registered as missing by the end of the war.

I would like to focus on the case of Martina Štefančič, a four-year-old girl who was killed along with her grandmother by members of the Serbian aggressor army firing automatic weapons on the night of 20-21 March 1992. That heinous crime was never prosecuted, and the perpetrators have not faced justice. The perpetrators are Croatian citizens of Serbian nationality who enjoy freedom of movement throughout the European Union.

In view of the above, could the Commission say what the EU's recommendations are regarding the prosecution of the most serious crimes committed against members of vulnerable groups in society, and children in particular? Do victims and their family members enjoy special protection or a special regime when accessing justice? Are judicial authorities obliged to prosecute such crimes as a matter of priority?