Question for written answer E-004032/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Cross-border labour mobility

In border areas, many citizens work in a neighbouring EU country, and companies often extend their search for workers to neighbouring countries. However, there are still obstacles to cross-border labour mobility.

Third-country nationals residing in Belgium and married to an EU citizen must apply for a cross-border commuter card in Germany in order to pursue gainful employment in that country. It takes around seven weeks to issue a cross-border commuter card. This prevents workers from being hired immediately or at short notice because the cross-border commuter card can only be applied for upon presentation of an employment contract or provisional contract. In addition, the lengthy wait before such a card can be issued means that cross-border applicants are at a disadvantage compared to residents.

1. Is the Commission aware of similar confirmation procedures in other EU Member States regarding the employment of third-country nationals?

2. Is the Commission aware of the long deadline for issuing the cross-border commuter card in Germany and the associated obstacles to cross-border labour mobility?

3. Does the Commission see a way to expedite this procedure, for example by issuing a temporary cross-border commuter card valid for a short period of time?