

**Question for written answer E-004454/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID), Bernhard Zimniok (ID)**

**Subject:** So-called refugees and accommodating them with taxpayers' money on cruise ships

Katarina Barley (SPD), Vice-President of Parliament, has suggested moving so-called refugees from, for example, the Greek islands to a cruise ship. This was initially rejected by the Commission <sup>1</sup>.

However, the coronavirus policy of countries with an EU external border, such as Italy, means that so-called refugees are now to be taken from smugglers' boats to cruise ships, where they will be quarantined and then transferred to the mainland.

1. Has the Commission changed its decision not to accommodate so-called refugees on cruise ships? If so, why has it changed its decision? If not, what is its assessment of their being accommodated on cruise ships at the instigation of national governments, contrary to the Commission's decision?
2. Does the Commission know the extent of this accommodation of so-called refugees on cruise ships (cost in EUR; number of so-called refugees accommodated; number of cruise ships; territorial waters where they are located)?
3. Is the cost being borne by the governments concerned from their own resources, or is the EU participating with direct or indirect funding (for example, from the COVID-19 Recovery Fund or similar)? If so, how much funding is it providing?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article207188165/EU-Kommission-will-keine-Fluechtlinge-auf-Kreuzfahrtschiffen.html>