

**Question for written answer E-004631/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Development of the EU's eastern border regions

Job losses are on the rise in the EU. One million employment contracts have been terminated in Romania since March. At the same time, over one million Romanians who until recently were employed in other Member States have returned home.

We are back to the same levels as in 2008, when Europe was feeling the effects of the financial crisis. At that time, EU and national policies focusing mainly on support for the banking sector rather than on boosting job creation impacted severely on millions of Europeans.

Unlike in that earlier crisis, we are now also faced with manipulative and subversive action from the east. I call on the Commission, therefore, to place special emphasis on economic and social support for the EU's eastern border regions, such as the Danube Delta in South-East Romania, given their geostrategic importance.

Poverty is a fertile breeding ground for manipulators and tricksters. EU policies must take these kinds of threats into account. Unless there are changes when it comes to EU funding, there could be a gradual uncoupling of the border regions from the EU.

Does the Commission plan to take targeted measures that offer an effective and urgent solution for the vulnerable eastern border regions of the EU?