

**Question for written answer E-005397/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Adequate EU funding and long-term reception facilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including for vulnerable groups

The Commission has been funding the reception response for asylum seekers in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) since 2018. The funding has enabled the set-up and maintenance of temporary reception centres (TRCs), including health services following the outbreak of COVID-19, and supports essential humanitarian assistance in off-site locations. The funding has created decent reception/living conditions at a number of sites, but the announcement by the Una Sana Canton (USC) authorities of the closure of camps already in operation (TRC Bira and TRC Miral) has worsened the already insufficient reception capacity, particularly for vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied minors and children, who are often forced to remain in informal settlements, squats or hidden in the forest.

1. What is the Commission's position on the announced closures of TRC Bira and TRC Miral, which jeopardise the effective and sustainable use of EU funding?
2. How can it support the accommodation of vulnerable groups, particularly after the closure of TRC Bira and TRC Miral?
3. With the Bosnian winter approaching, will the EU support minimum humanitarian conditions for asylum seekers, particularly for vulnerable groups, including a possible expansion of reception capacity in BiH, the winterisation of the Lipa emergency tent camp, and the provision of emergency humanitarian support outside reception facilities?