

**Question for written answer E-006879/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
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Subject: Several thousand first-time applications for asylum across the EU despite the pandemic

Despite travel warnings, lockdowns, curfews and other measures introduced during the pandemic, the EU Member States are registering several thousand first-time applications for asylum.

1. For months now, attempts have been made to keep the infection rate low by restricting the freedom of honest EU citizens. Travel, in particular, is supposed to have been restricted by applying drastic measures. Despite these restrictions, several thousand first-time applications for asylum are being registered by EU Member States. Why are EU citizens having their freedom to travel restricted when, at the same time however, nothing is being done about migrants who circulate freely in the EU?
2. Although the world's attention is focused on the SARS-CoV-2 virus at the moment, the refugee crisis is still a topical issue and one that contributes its share to the pandemic. How does the Commission intend to make sure that illegal migrants also comply with the measures, even though neither the whereabouts nor the identity of a large proportion of them is known?