Question for written answer E-007083/2020 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Situation of Romanian citizens stuck at the British/French border

The desperate situation of thousands of Europeans stuck in the UK after several European states have closed their borders because of the new SARS-CoV-2 variant is causing unprecedented concern and requires a rapid reaction from the EU.

Hundreds of Romanians are among those stuck at the border of the UK with France following a decision by the French authorities to ban freight and travel from the United Kingdom as a result of a new COVID-19 strain being identified.

In the last few hours efforts have been made at European level to get things moving, with Consulate employees and volunteers distributing food and water to Romanians stuck at the border, but the situation is far from resolved. Citizens stuck at customs are exhausted after so many hours of waiting in inappropriate conditions, with no access to personal care facilities or food, in extreme weather, and blame the authorities for this inexplicable situation.

- 1. What measures is the Commission taking to guarantee that the fundamental rights of European citizens are observed and to avoid such situations?
- 2. How has the Commission managed the crisis, apart from recommending that EU countries adopt a coordinated approach to travel and transport measures?