

**Question for written answer E-001202/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tom Vandenkendelaere (PPE)

Subject: EU assistance in dealing with transmigrants

The problem of transmigrants is unfortunately one that remains very much alive. A number of incidents have recently occurred involving transmigrants risking their lives in attempting to reach the United Kingdom from various locations in the European Union, for example the port city of Zeebrugge in Flanders (Belgium)¹. In addition to the inadmissible and unspeakable levels of human suffering being caused, local businesses are bearing the brunt of the disastrous economic consequences.

This situation is not only hampering the safe and smooth flow of transport but also increasing the cost thereof because of the need to step up security at terminals and in vehicles, not to mention the damage caused by break-ins and the destruction of food consignments following the discovery of clandestine transmigrants. Furthermore, if the UK customs authorities do chance to discover a stowaway, the result is often a hefty fine for the carrier concerned.

1. What can the Commission do to assist Member States along the North Sea in their attempts to mitigate the impact of transmigration on local businesses?
2. What funding is being earmarked by the Commission for this purpose?
3. Does the Commission intend to step up this funding in a bid to deal more effectively with the problem of transmigration along the North Sea?

¹ <https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/belgium-all-news/155507/eight-migrants-saved-from-suffocation-in-lorry-in-zeebrugge-temperature-breathing-difficulties-prosecutor-bruges-purfleet-essex/> ; https://www.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20201123_98119526 ; <https://www.hln.be/brugge/deze-week-dubbel-zoveel-transmigranten-opgepakt-in-en-rond-haven-van-zeebrugge~ae421bf6/?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F>