

**Question for written answer E-001363/2021
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Julie Lechanteux (ID)

Subject: Council of Europe report on migrants and the right of countries to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals to their territory

In its report published on 9 March 2021, entitled 'A distress call for human rights: The widening gap in migrant protection in the Mediterranean'¹, the Council of Europe criticises countries for their supposed unwillingness to develop policies to protect migrants.

The report is a follow-up to the 2019 recommendation made by the institution's Commissioner for Human Rights on migrant sea rescues². It also sets out a series of measures that European countries should introduce urgently.

For our part, however, we believe that the European countries have never neglected to support those in distress and have always fulfilled their humanitarian duty.

The Council of Europe's report advocates for the principle that anyone who sets out to cross the Mediterranean should automatically acquire the right to settle in the European Union.

Does the Commission consider the Council of Europe's recommendations to be contrary to the right of EU Member States to determine volumes of admission of third-country nationals coming from third countries to their territory (Article 79(5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)?

¹ 'A distress call for human rights: The widening gap in migrant protection in the Mediterranean' (coe.int)

² 'Lives saved. Rights protected. Bridging the protection gap for refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean'