

**Question for written answer E-002688/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Thijs Reuten (S&D)**

Subject: EU preparedness for migrant arrivals

Around 1 400 migrants arrived in Lampedusa on Sunday 9 May 2021 alone. Hundreds of them had no choice but to sleep outside as the island's reception centre had reached its maximum capacity. With weather conditions improving and the COVID-19 crisis likely coming to an end soon, the EU has to consider the possibility of a sharp surge in migrant arrivals in the near future, and not only in Italy. This raises questions about the preparedness of the EU for this situation.

1. What actions is the Commission taking in cooperation with Member States to make sure the EU can handle such an increase while respecting human rights and the right to asylum?
2. Given that negotiations on the new Pact on Asylum and Migration are still ongoing, how will the Commission make sure that refugees are relocated across the Member States in a balanced way to relieve pressure on Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain?
3. Would the Commission call the recent events in Lampedusa 'migration pressure' or even a 'situation of crisis', as defined in the proposed regulation on asylum and migration management and the proposed regulation addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum?