

**Question for written answer E-003269/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: Immigrant detainees in Caxias prison: a violation of their fundamental rights

Last week, the Portuguese press reported that the country's Government intended to carry out work on an unused wing of Caxias prison in order to house immigrants who have been refused entry into Portugal or who are being returned to their country of origin by court order.

The fact that this was the Government's intention is already reprehensible in itself, as it is unacceptable that someone who has not committed any crime be detained and sent to prison, in full breach of their fundamental rights.

Yet it would appear that this intention has become a reality, as it turns out that in February this year the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF) and the Directorate General for Reintegration and Prison Services signed a transfer agreement for the wing, with a view to using it to house immigrants in SEF custody.

A number of reports show that the vast majority of immigrants refused entry and/or who remain in EU Member States are due to irregularities in their documentation rather than because they are suspected of having committed a crime or pose a security threat.

In view of the above, what steps will the Commission take to urge the Portuguese Government to implement a policy in line with the European values set out in Article 2 TEU, particularly with regard to respect for fundamental rights?