

**Question for written answer E-004950/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Harald Vilimsky (ID), Georg Mayer (ID)

Subject: People smugglers

It is no secret – and has not been since the refugee crisis began – that smuggling people into the EU is a profitable business. Now that another 120 migrants have been taken to Sicily, we have a number of questions in this connection:

1. How will organisations that illegally bring people into the EU be punished in the future?
2. Particularly when there is a pandemic, and in view of the restrictions that are still applicable in the Member States, why are hundreds of people who probably neither have been vaccinated nor have recovered from COVID-19 nor have been tested simply being allowed to enter the EU?
3. What support will be given to countries such as Italy, which face ruthless people-smuggling outfits, to deport illegal migrants?