

**Question for written answer E-005224/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó (NI)**

Subject: Belarusian minors affected by the Chernobyl disaster

The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster left around 800 000 people affected by radiation. The effects on children have been drastic: children growing up near the disaster zone have suffered health problems since birth, such as enlarged thyroids, cancer and respiratory illnesses.

In 2019, over 8 000 Belarusian minors were welcomed in Italy and Spain, most of them with health issues and special needs. Several non-governmental organisations have reported that in the last two years, this welcoming programme has been interrupted due to COVID-19 and border-related restrictions.

Despite the urgent need for these programmes as part of the response to this humanitarian crisis, Spain, Italy, and the EU authorities have still not resumed the temporary hosting of Belarusian minors affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

1. What actions does the Commission intend to take in order to facilitate the rapid resumption of these projects?
2. Has it made plans to ensure that the sanctions against Belarus do not affect the resumption of these projects and other similar humanitarian initiatives?