Question for written answer E-005517/2021 to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Mutual recognition of parenthood

In 2020 and 2021, Parliament recognised reproductive exploitation as a violation of human rights¹ and a form of trafficking in human beings², including for the purpose of surrogacy. The Commission is preparing a legislative initiative on the recognition of family relations, which can have direct effects on this issue.

The vagueness of the legal language used by the Commission, which never speaks of ‘filiation’ and prefers the indeterminate concept of ‘parenthood’, opens up a gap that could amount to ratifying the effects of reproductive exploitation in EU legislation.

1. How does the Commission intend to fight against reproductive exploitation?
2. Can it clarify the definition and scope of the term ‘parenthood’?
3. How can it guarantee that the ongoing work on the mutual recognition of ‘parenthood’ will include sufficient safeguards to ensure the proposal does not present any opportunity to facilitate reproductive exploitation?