

**Question for written answer E-001262/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Jean-Paul Garraud (ID)

Subject: Checks on the ability of third-country nationals to return to their country of origin upon their arrival in the EU

Since the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, 3.5 million people have fled Ukraine, the majority of them to Poland. It is estimated that there could be 5 million refugees.

To cope with such a massive influx of people, on 4 March, following a Commission proposal, EU Interior Ministers unanimously activated the temporary protection mechanism provided for in the Directive 2001/55/EC. This mechanism aims to provide immediate protection to refugees without examining each request individually in order to ease the pressure on national asylum systems and enable refugees to enjoy harmonised rights across the EU (residency, work, housing, health and education).

It applies to Ukrainian nationals and their families who were living in Ukraine on or prior to 24 February, to stateless persons and third-country nationals who were benefitting from international protection in Ukraine and who are unable to safely return to their country of origin.

Given the low rates of expulsion in Europe and in order to avoid creating yet another immigration channel, is the ability of third-country nationals coming from Ukraine to return to their country of origin checked upon their arrival in the EU? If not, does the Commission intend to organise such checks?