

**Question for written answer E-001327/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Ukrainian crisis: human traffickers waiting in ambush

According to the latest UN figures, almost 3.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the arrival of Russian armed forces in the country. The majority of these refugees are women, children, and vulnerable people, with the latter particularly at risk of being exploited sexually or forced into crime or begging.

Recently Europol urged host countries to remain vigilant about this. Many criminals specialising in human trafficking are passing themselves off as volunteers and infiltrating border areas and reception and transport centres to find their future victims.

Worse still, there is concern about child trafficking on Ukraine's borders. Here criminals cross the border and go straight to orphanages where they then claim to be related to the children they abduct. It has never been easier for crime networks to abduct a person and make them disappear.

1. Does the Commission plan to step up controls at the EU's borders through the Frontex border protection agency?
2. Failing that, does the Commission plan to pursue a policy to prevent this happening to Ukrainian refugees?