

**Question for written answer E-002898/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Sophia in 't Veld** (Renew), **Thijs Reuten** (S&D)

**Subject:** Dutch government plans to impose a waiting period on refugees seeking family reunification

The Dutch government has recently decided to extend the deadline for ruling on asylum and family reunification applications and to introduce a waiting period for family reunification. This means that refugees must now wait 30 months before they can be reunited with their families.

1. Does the Commission consider a standard 15-month deadline for ruling on asylum applications to be accordance with Article 31(3) of the Directive on asylum procedures? Does it consider the systematic application of a nine-month deadline for decisions regarding family reunification applications to be consistent with advice that the maximum time limit is justified only in cases of force majeure or where further investigation is necessary<sup>1</sup>?
2. What view does it take of the envisaged six-month waiting period for the issuing of a visa following a favourable decision, in the light of Article 13(1) of the Directive, which requires Member States to issue visas as soon as applications have been accepted, Article 12, which prohibits Member States from imposing residence requirements or waiting periods on refugees, and Articles 7 and 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provide that the best interests of the child must be the primary consideration and that applications for family reunification must be processed as a matter of urgency?

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2014) 0210 point 3.3.