

**Question for written answer E-003845/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Criminalisation of vulnerable homeless people in Alicante

On 6 November 2022, the newspaper Información published an article entitled "Alicante's byelaw on begging displaces homeless people to Elche", which stated that after the Alicante City Council passed a byelaw on 'civic coexistence' on 15 February 2022, introducing fines for homeless people, the neighbouring city of Elche has seen a substantial rise in numbers of homelessness people.

Treating vulnerable homeless people as criminals is particularly egregious in a time when where, due to the COVID-19 crisis and the arrival of refugees, particularly from Ukraine, the capacity of the municipal reception centre is insufficient. The byelaw also flies in the face of the objective that no one should be discriminated against on the basis of their status as homeless laid down in the Lisbon Declaration of 2021, signed by the Member States and the European institutions, among others.

1. What view does the Commission take of this Alicante City Council byelaw and its effects on the province?
2. Does it consider the Alicante byelaw to be in accordance with Articles 21(1) and 34(3) of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, principle 19 of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Lisbon Declaration?

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