

**Question for written answer E-004048/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Use of live ammunition on migrants at the Bulgarian border

As described by Lighthouse Reports, on 3 October, a young 19-year-old Syrian named Abdullah El Rustum Mohammed attempted to enter Bulgaria to seek asylum in Europe. The group he was with was turned back by Bulgarian border guards. As he stood protesting next to the border, just a few metres away from the Bulgarian guards, Abdullah was shot. The bullet went through his hand and lodged in his chest, just a centimetre from his heart. He was shot for attempting to seek asylum. The Bulgarian Government acknowledges that its border guards were in the area, but denies that they opened fire. Despite this denial, Abdullah did receive a bullet wound that damaged the nerves in his hand and flooded his lungs with blood. Given that lethal force is only justified in cases of imminent danger to an individual's own life or to the lives of others, something which does not appear to have been the case:

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the role played by these border guards in Bulgaria?
2. Given that this is the first time the border authorities of a Member State have been filmed firing on refugees, does the Commission intend to investigate and/or take steps to clarify what occurred?

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