

**Question for written answer E-001269/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Treatment of asylum seekers in the Lipa camp in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In November 2022, Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi visited Bosnia and Herzegovina and announced that an additional EUR 500 000 would be allocated to the Lipa camp and its detention centre so that 'fake asylum seekers' could be detained there¹ until they were returned to their countries of origin. Last week² however, the EU Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina Johann Sattler said that people may only be detained in the centre for a maximum of 72 hours. EU funds for Lipa come from the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance.

The cantonal authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have revealed that the building permit for the detention centre in the Lipa camp was never granted. The Prime Minister of the Una-Sana Canton has publicly expressed concern about the lack of information on the facility. The following questions thus arise.

1. According to the Commission, what is meant by the term 'fake asylum seekers' and how do they differ from 'real' asylum seekers?
2. How many people can be detained in the Lipa camp at any one time, and to what end and how can we ensure that the money is not being used to detain people who were previously illegally removed from the EU by the Croatian authorities?
3. Does the Commission consider the treatment of people in the Lipa camp to be in accordance with EU and international law?

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bosnia-and-herzegovina/commissioner-oliv%C3%A9r-v%C3%A1rhelyi-bosnia-and-herzegovina-migration-%E2%80%93_en?s=219

² <https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000145405184/mit-geld-aus-oesterreich-wird-in-bosnien-abschiebelager-mit-gefaengnis>