

**Question for written answer E-001620/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Leila Chaibi (The Left)

Subject: Access to the Flexible Assistance to Territories Package for refugees from Ukraine

The Commission adopted the Flexible Assistance to Territories Package (FAST-CARE), which enabled Member States to respond quickly to the influx of refugees from Ukraine. The proposal included the provision that 30 % of funding be earmarked for local authorities and civil society organisations. However, Social Service Europe members have seen limited access to this funding for civil society actors / social service providers engaged in providing essential services to refugees from Ukraine. Social service providers, in particular those in the countries bordering Ukraine, also report not receiving timely and pertinent replies to their questions on how to access money from these funds. Given this:

1. Can the Commission clarify how social service providers can access EU funding to respond to the influx of refugees from Ukraine (including funding from CARE, FAST-CARE and other EU funds) through national governments and receive transparent, timely and clear information on how to access this funding?
2. Would the Commission consider assisting the disbursement of funds by facilitating a partnership approach between the Commission and EU umbrella organisations for social service providers, as well as between national governments and domestic social service providers, to guarantee a swift transfer of existing EU funds?

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