

**Question for written answer E-001734/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The disappearance of children

The EU's open borders are a huge problem, and not only for our citizens: they also pose a huge safety risk to many young migrant children.

A recent publication states that nearly 17 migrant children a day have disappeared in Europe since 2018¹. According to the Dutch ombudsman, a young child disappears from a refugee centre in the Netherlands almost every day. In the UK, too, children have systematically disappeared from hotels that were used as emergency shelters.

1. Can the Commission provide details of cases of migrant children who have (possibly) disappeared and outline the (possible) underlying facts and circumstances, together with the actions that have been considered and taken?
2. Does the Commission share the view that the disappearance of migrant children highlights the need for strict border and migration policies and for zero tolerance towards those who commit crimes against children?
3. In the Netherlands, children disappeared as a result of government interventions (the Dutch childcare benefits scandal), and many of them have still not been found. Can the Commission provide details of the cases of these children, along with the information requested in question 1, and explain how the EU's fundamental rights and values relate to these disappearances?

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¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/apr/21/nearly-17-child-migrants-a-day-vanished-in-europe-since-2018>.