

**Question for written answer E-001862/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Cutro shipwreck: speed and effectiveness of procedures for assessing applications for protection under voluntary relocation schemes

In the Cutro (Italy) shipwreck in February 2023, 95 people lost their lives. According to both news and government sources, 76 of the survivors have applied for international protection, including 39 in Germany, which has admitted 33 of the group, most of whom are from Afghanistan and Syria. Since the end of March, they have been detained in centres in Hamburg, with no further steps being taken to reunify them with their families or to validate other legal residence statuses.

In its answer to written question E-003446/2021, the Commission wrote that developments in family reunification mechanisms within voluntary relocation schemes are monitored only ex post and on the basis of data voluntarily provided by Member States.

In the light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider it possible, at least within voluntary relocation schemes, to step up harmonisation in the procedures for completing requests for international protection or reunification, for example, through the exchange of best practices, with a view to making standards with regard to effectiveness and speed higher than those laid down in Directive 2003/86/EC and Regulation (EU) No 439/2010?
2. Does it encourage the Member States to take effective action within a reasonable time frame in the relocation scheme process?

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