Question for written answer E-002070/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Belgium's asylum seeker reception crisis and failure to comply with court decisions

Numerous reports\(^1\) indicate that since October 2021, Belgium has failed to comply with the Reception
Conditions Directive (Directive 2013/33/EU), which provides that asylum seekers have the right to
housing. In June 2023, 2,100 asylum seekers\(^2\) had no accommodation, seriously affecting their health
and well-being. Forecasts indicate that this number may increase and will soon include minors and
vulnerable adults. In January 2023, the Commission opened infringement proceedings against
Belgium for not transposing the Reception Conditions Directive correctly. In February 2023, a Dutch
court suspended a Dublin transfer to Belgium because of the reception crisis. In March 2023, four UN
Special Rapporteurs wrote to the Belgian Government about the situation. By May 2023, Belgian
courts had handed down 6,761 decisions condemning Belgium’s failure to provide shelter to asylum
seekers, while the European Court of Human Rights had ordered 1,656 interim measures in this
regard.

1. In the light of the above, what formal action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that
Belgium fulfils its obligations under the Reception Conditions Directive? Will infringement
proceedings be opened as regards Belgium’s implementation of the directive?

2. Does the Commission believe that non-compliance with court decisions is consistent with
Belgium’s rule of law obligations, and does it intend to address this in its annual rule of law
report?

Supporter\(^3\)

Submitted: 29.6.2023

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\(^1\) https://www.msf-azg.be/fr/rapport-crise-migratoire.
\(^2\) Figures as at 6 June 2023.
\(^3\) This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D’Amato (Verts/ALE)