

**Question for written answer E-003753/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: Does the Commission not fear that the financing of the REPAIR project will serve to draw irregular immigration?

An amount of EUR 9.8 billion is foreseen in the 2021-2027 budget programming¹ for AMIF². This fund supports in particular projects for asylum seekers, such as the REPAIR project. The aim is to reunite the families of asylum seekers within the EU, on the grounds that this would prevent refugees from experiencing 'psychosocial difficulties [and] significant mental health problems', and to give the families of migrants 'legal, safe and (protected) access to Europe'³.

1. Does the Commission believe that this support for the REPAIR project remains legitimate, at a time when many EU countries are experiencing an economic crisis, coupled with geopolitical and security threats and a very worrying irregular migration that is putting a strain on our integration capacities?
2. Should one not worry that maintaining this right to family reunification will amplify the phenomenon of irregular border crossings in the EU? Their number for 2022 was officially estimated at 331 400, an increase of 66 % compared to 2021⁴, and, according to Frontex⁵, an increase of 10 % has already been recorded in the first six months of 2023 compared to 2022.

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¹ 'Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF): how the EU supports the reception of refugees in France', *Toute l'Europe, comprendre l'Europe* website, 9 March 2023.

² Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

³ REPAIR project, French Red Cross, 30 September 2022.

⁴ Statistics on migration to Europe, https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en

⁵ Central Mediterranean top migratory route into the EU in first half of 2023, Frontex, 14 July 2023.