Question for written answer E-000320/2024
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: 400 asylum seekers held in overcrowded conditions in Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport

Around 400 asylum seekers are being detained in emergency holding rooms at Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport. They are being held in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions, sleeping on the ground or on mattresses, without access to showers or hygiene products. They are not allowed to use mobile phones and have no contact with the outside world, preventing them from proceeding with their asylum applications. The Red Cross has suspended its provision of social and healthcare services as it was unable to work in such conditions. The Ombudsman has warned that 'these people may presumably be being subjected to degrading treatment undermining their moral integrity'[1]. The UN Refugee Agency already asked the Ministry of the Interior to take urgent measures for these asylum seekers in November[2].

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights[3] prohibits inhuman treatment and recognises the right to integrity, dignity and health protection. Article 18 thereof also guarantees the right to asylum.

1.   Has the Commission contacted the Spanish Ministry of the Interior in order to enquire about the asylum procedures and the health of those detained?

2.   What measures will it take to guarantee their right to health, integrity and asylum?

Submitted:31.1.2024

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[1]   The Ombudsman's call on the Ministry of Migration, the Ministry of the Interior and AENA: https://www.defensordelpueblo.es/noticias/situacion-salas-barajas/
[2]   UNHCR stresses the urgent need to resolve the situation of asylum seekers at Madrid-Barajas airport: https://www.acnur.org/es-es/noticias/comunicados-de-prensa/acnur-recuerda-la-urgencia-de-resolver-la-situacion-de-los
[3]   Charter of Fundamental Rights https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf.