Subject: Human rights and the plight of refugees in the coronavirus pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic poses a threat to the health and lives of people living in all the Member States. While most people in those countries can protect themselves by staying at home, people living in often overcrowded refugee camps are at a significantly higher risk of becoming infected with the virus. In the past few days, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and many NGOs have called for the evacuation of the Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos. Conditions in the camp are particularly inhumane: people are often deprived of their basic human rights and disease is rife. There are similar conditions in camps on many other Greek islands, and an outbreak of the epidemic in those places would pose a direct threat not only to those living in the camps but also to the islands’ permanent residents.

In the light of the foregoing:

Does the Commission have procedures in place to prevent the spread of the epidemic in refugee camps? If so, which of those procedures is it intending to implement in the near future?

What other steps is the Commission intending to take, and is it intending to allocate additional resources to combat the virus in the places mentioned above in the face of this epidemic, which is gaining momentum every day?