

**Priority question for written answer P-003334/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Migration situation in the Western Balkans

In a press release, the Frontex Agency states that between January and April 2020, 6 000 migrants in the Western Balkans crossed the external border into the EU ¹ .

Furthermore, an updated fact sheet published by the Commission shows that the numbers of migrants arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina rose sharply in 2019, reaching over 59 000 in total since the start of 2018, with 9 000 refugees and migrants still in the country on 29 April 2020, the date the file was updated ² .

This situation led the Commission to unlock EUR 4.5 million in immediate aid, bringing the total for emergency humanitarian assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina since 2018 to EUR 10.3 million ³ .

It is worth noting that, according to the the International Organization for Migration's Coordinator in Sarajevo, quoted by Euronews in 2018, up to 85 % of migrants in Bosnia-Herzegovina are there for economic reasons ⁴ .

How does the Commission plan to stop the flows of migrants from Bosnia-Herzegovina and contribute to repatriating people who cannot claim the protection offered to refugees?

¹ <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news-release/situation-at-eu-external-borders-in-april-detections-lowest-since-2009-mJE5Uv>

² European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Facts and Figures, Bosnia and Herzegovina, last updated 29.4.2020; https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/bosnia_and_herzegovina_2020-04-30.pdf

³ 'Today, the European Commission announced €4.5 million in immediate humanitarian assistance to help vulnerable refugees and migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina access comprehensive health and protection assistance. This brings EU humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to €10.3 million since 2018'; <https://reliefweb.int/report/bosnia-and-herzegovina/bosnia-and-herzegovina-eu-announces-45-million-support-vulnerable>

⁴ <https://www.euronews.com/2018/11/30/people-stuck-in-bosnia-up-to-85-percent-are-economic-migrants>