Priority question for written answer P-004652/2020 to the Commission
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Frontex budget cuts

On 5 August 2020, the Commission announced that, in connection with the agreement between Heads of State and Government of 21 July 2020, problems had emerged regarding the Frontex budget, which would accordingly need to be reviewed, thereby compromising major purchases of equipment. ¹

1. In which operational areas will Frontex funding be cut?

2. The Commission has asserted that, notwithstanding the cuts, Frontex will continue to carry out its tasks, including repatriation operations. Given that, in recent years, the cost of repatriation has been disproportionately high compared with the number of repatriated migrants, can Commission provide a repatriation plan for the current term, indicating in particular the number of returns anticipated?

3. The Commission is expecting Member States to invest in ‘equipment of this type’ (not specified) and make it available to Frontex. This strongly suggests that the Commission is failing to take seriously the protection of Europe’s external borders and that the resources made available to Frontex are not being used effectively. In the Commission’s view, what added value does Frontex now provide over and above the measures taken by the Member States concerned to monitor their own external borders?