

**Priority question for written answer P-004118/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Admission of Afghans to the EU

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has called on the Member States to admit people from Afghanistan. And she is not alone, as other high-ranking EU officials are jumping onto this welcoming bandwagon. This gives rise to some questions.

1. Since the 2015 refugee crisis at the latest, it has been clear that returns are more talked about than implemented. How will the Commission ensure that the Afghans it invites to the EU will later go back to their homeland?
2. People who flee from war usually go to a safe neighbouring country so that they can return when the situation returns to normal. Is there not the risk in this situation that people fleeing to Germany, Austria or other central EU countries might in fact be economic refugees?
3. Some European countries and organisations have decided to send evacuation flights to Afghanistan. This means of entry is illegal. What action will be taken to stop this happening?