Priority question for written answer P-000889/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Repatriation of Ukrainian minors to host families in Member States

Following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster in April 1986, every year, scores of Ukrainian children spent several months in Spain and other Member States to avoid the effects of exposure to nuclear radiation for as long as possible. Those yearly stays with families from the EU have created strong emotional bonds between Ukrainians and EU citizens: the families consider themselves to be very close. Some Ukrainian children are already second-generation ‘health visitors’ and see their host families as their own family and vice-versa, despite the lack of family legal ties. These success stories are the fruit of sterling work by a number of associations and foundations. Nowadays, we find that some Ukrainian children are regarded by their EU host families as members of their own families.

In view of the close family relationships between Ukrainian and EU civil society and the need for Ukrainian children to be able to leave the war zone as a matter of urgency and avoid the risks of war:

What steps will the Commission take to smooth the way into the EU for refugee children who have host families in Member States that are worried and keen to avoid risks?