

**Priority question for written answer P-001277/2022/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Plan to protect Russian citizens fleeing Putin's regime

Over one month ago, the Russian invasion of Ukraine began and with it the biggest humanitarian disaster to take place on European soil since the end of the Balkan war. Meanwhile, the Russian authorities are carrying out systematic reprisals against Russians who oppose the war. Anti-war protests are being violently suppressed and protesters locked up. Add to that the tough sanctions imposed on Russia by the EU and America, as well as the withdrawal of Western companies, and it is clear why many Russians, particularly highly educated young people, are abandoning the country, making the brain drain an everyday reality. Hundreds of thousands of young Russians have abandoned their homes overnight and find themselves in a foreign country without a plan of action.

It is the innocent who are affected by Russia's isolation from most of the world, rising inflation, unemployment, difficulties in travelling and declining living standards. Instead of helping them, some countries are calling for a general visa ban for Russians.

If we want to make it easier for them to stay in these countries and show that we are different and better, Europe needs to understand their situation, to respond and open its doors to some extent.

In the light of the above:

Does the Commission have a plan to protect Russian citizens fleeing Putin's regime and, if so, how will it go about this?