

**Priority question for written answer P-002519/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christian Sagartz (PPE)**

**Subject:** Measures to implement the new pact on migration and asylum

The number of asylum applications in Austria in general and in Burgenland in particular is at the highest it has been since 2015/2016. And the situation is not expected to ease up any time soon. Every day, people smuggled to Austria in the most adverse and sometimes life-threatening conditions are picked up in villages in Burgenland. Many smugglers have been arrested, pushing the police and judiciary to the limits of their capacity. Part of the problem is that the existing EU asylum-related provisions are either not effective or have not actually been implemented. This was recognised by the Commission, which as a solution proposed a new pact on asylum and migration in a communication which correctly states on page 3 that 'no Member State should shoulder a disproportionate responsibility'.

1. What steps is the Commission currently taking to advance the implementation of the new pact on asylum and migration? What steps are being taken to help EP political groups and ministers in the Council make progress in the negotiations? In view of the current figures, is the burden on Austria considered to be disproportionate?
2. What is being done to ensure the external borders are properly secured? What will be done to prevent any more migrants from being abandoned by smugglers in villages in Burgenland, which is miles away from the EU's external borders?
3. What is being done to promote the effective and rapid return of asylum applicants from safe countries of origin or third countries?