

**Priority question for written answer P-003584/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
István Ujhelyi (S&D)

Subject: Released human traffickers

Yesterday, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a new and comprehensive framework to fight international human trafficking more effectively and efficiently. Besides calling for closer and more coordinated international cooperation and the creation of a broad international alliance, the European Commission also proposed reforming the EU's legislative framework.

1. To what extent is the Hungarian government's practice of releasing human traffickers consistent with the spirit of the proposed regulation or directive presented as a reform of the EU's legal framework, and does the practice of the Hungarian government releasing criminals convicted of human trafficking, which threatens the security of the European Union, require any response or action at EU or Member-State level?
2. Bence Rétvári, Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior in the Hungarian government, justified the government's decision to release criminals convicted of human trafficking by saying that the European Union is forcing Hungary to do so, as "Brussels" does not contribute to the costs of protecting the border, but punishes Hungary if its prisons are overcrowded. Does the Commission consider this explanation to be legitimate and factual?
3. Does the European Commission plan to adopt the Hungarian government's "good practice" of taking the initiative to release criminals convicted of human trafficking on the grounds of overcrowded prisons?

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