

**Question for written answer E-002231/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Gabriela Firea (S&D)

Subject: Scaling-back of human trafficking

Human trafficking is a social phenomenon that takes many forms, involving the buying and selling and exploitation of adults and children. Traffickers take advantage of people's vulnerabilities and their unstable circumstances arising from poverty, discrimination, violence against women, lack of access to education, ethnic conflict and natural disasters. In recent years, several Member States have reported an increase (to 21 % of all trafficking victims) in trafficking with a view to labour exploitation, including an increase in the number of men being pressed into agricultural work. Traffickers are taking advantage of loopholes in the laws relating to work permits, visas, workers' rights and working conditions.

On top of this, the increase in child trafficking has been exacerbated by the current migration crisis, during which time the number of children arriving in the EU has increased exponentially.

1. To what extent is the Commission intervening and working with the Member States to improve the collection of statistics on these phenomena and to pinpoint solutions for gearing EU legislation to help combat human trafficking?
2. What arrangements does the Commission have in mind for information campaigns, particularly in rural areas, aimed at raising awareness of human trafficking among low-income families, which are those most often targeted by traffickers?

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