Question for written answer E-002535/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Paolo Inselvini (ECR), Kosma Złotowski (ECR), Sergio Berlato (ECR), Arkadiusz Mularczyk (ECR), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Mariateresa Vivaldini (ECR), Nora Junco García (ECR), Laurence Trochu (ECR), Daniele Polato (ECR), Aurelijus Veryga (ECR), Carlo Ciccioli (ECR), Claudiu-Richard Târziu (ECR), Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (PfE), Sander Smit (ECR), Nicolas Bay (ECR), Şerban Dimitrie Sturdza (ECR), Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR), Geadis Geadi (ECR), Stephen Nikola Bartulica (ECR), Diego Solier (ECR)

Subject: Inclusion of surrogacy in the new EU strategy to combat trafficking in human beings

During the joint hearing of 3 June 2026 of Parliament's Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and on Women's Rights and Gender Equality concerning the forthcoming strategy to combat trafficking in human beings, the Commission's EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Diane Schmitt, stated that surrogacy would not be included in the strategy.

This statement is surprising, given that Directive (EU) 2024/1712[1], which amended Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, expressly included surrogacy among the forms of exploitation that Member States must classify as trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, in its news article of 12 July 2024 on the entry into force of the new anti-trafficking rules[2], the Commission itself highlighted that the exploitation of surrogacy is one of the new forms of exploitation covered by the legislative revision.

Can the Commission clarify:

1. whether it considers surrogacy to constitute a form of trafficking in human beings within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2024/1712?

2. whether it intends to explicitly include measures to combat surrogacy in the forthcoming EU strategy to combat trafficking in human beings?

3. what concrete initiatives it intends to adopt to tackle transnational criminal networks involved in cross-border surrogacy arrangements and the sale of children?

Submitted: 18.6.2026

[1] Directive (EU) 2024/1712 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 amending Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (OJ L, 2024/1712, 24.6.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1712/oj).

[2] European Commission 'Stronger EU rules to fight trafficking in human beings enter into force', news article, 12 July 2024, https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/stronger-eu-rules-fight-trafficking-human-beings-enter-force-2024-07-12_en.