

Question for written answer E-002027/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Fighting in Lebanon risks creating a new refugee crisis

Fighting in Lebanon and Palestine has already caused thousands of people to become displaced. Once again, the region finds itself confronted with a humanitarian and refugee crisis that could prompt thousands of people to seek out Europe's security. The expansion of the war is changing the status quo, requiring an organised European response. Given the specific circumstances, this response should also entail the creation of safeguards to prevent the possible movement of members of extremist groups.

In any case, supporting relief efforts is an immediate priority. There is also the possibility of an increased number of refugees seeking security in Cyprus and Greece. The intensity of this influx will probably render necessary the implementation of solidarity mechanisms such as those set out in the new Pact on Migration and Asylum prior to its entry into application.

In light of the above:

1. How is the Commission monitoring the evolving situation in Lebanon and the wider region with regard to supporting displaced people?
2. What measures and plans has the Commission put in place to address a possible increase in the number of refugees arriving in Cyprus and Greece?
3. Is it coordinating with the national authorities of the Member States, especially those of Cyprus and Greece, in order to manage a possible influx effectively? What initiatives does the EU intend to take to provide practical support to these two Member States?

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