

**Question for written answer E-004356/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The EU's efforts to address the issue of human trafficking in Moldova

Moldova has one of the highest human trafficking rates in Europe, with around 1 % of the population being affected. Victims are trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation and forced begging within the country and in other countries such as Turkey, Russia, Cyprus, Serbia and Ukraine. However, under its Association Agreement with the EU, Moldova has committed to minimum quality standards in protecting victims of human trafficking. Despite making some efforts, the country has failed to address the main factors leading to the impunity of perpetrators, such as corruption, particularly in law enforcement, official complicity in trafficking, inconsistent protection during court proceedings and limited assistance for victims.

What steps is the EU taking to address this issue, i.e. to ensure that the victims of human trafficking in Moldova have access to justice and reintegration?

Is the EU engaging with the Moldovan National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to assess the scope of trafficking crime and make recommendations?

Have any training activities for Moldovan law enforcement officers been planned, for example with the help of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, to ensure the consistent application of laws, especially in protecting victims and witnesses?