

**Question for written answer E-007056/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Illegal detention of migrants and refugees

Over 100 people are being held at the Corinth detention centre for migrants and refugees beyond the maximum permissible period of 18 months. In addition to being deprived of their freedom, they are being held under inhuman and degrading conditions. This prolonged period of detention flies in the face of all EU and international provisions regarding fundamental human rights and is an infringement of Directive 2008/115/EC on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third country nationals.

Decision No 44/2014 of the Greek State Legal Council directly contradicts Article 30(5) and (6) of Act 3907/2011 and Directive 2008/115/EC, insofar as it allows foreign nationals awaiting deportation/repatriation to be detained indefinitely even beyond the 18-month limit, which is itself legally admissible only under exceptional circumstances. A hunger strike commenced by protesting migrants in June 2014 was unsuccessful.

In view of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of this – now standard – procedure being followed by the Greek authorities?
2. What action does it intend to take to ensure compliance by the Greek authorities with Directive 2008/115/EC?