

**Question for written answer E-003977/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Conversion of open reception and identification centres into closed-type detention centres

The Greek government has announced its new operational plan on the refugee-migration issue.

It includes the conversion of all open reception and identification centres (Hotspots) into closed centres for holding refugees/migrants prior to departure or reception and identification. In this way, generalised, mass and systematic detention will become the rule in the Greece's migration policy in contravention of the relevant European legislation.

Will the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the Greek government's new operational plan and has it been consulted about the conversion of the reception and identification centres into closed detention centres?
2. Are these specific provisions compatible with Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection and Directive 2008/115/EU on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals, and in particular with Article 8 of the former and Articles 15 and 18 of the latter? How does it assess the possibility of detention centres being set up on uninhabited Aegean islands or in other deserted areas?
3. Given that the detainees will include thousands of minors, are these provisions in line with Greece's international obligations to protect the best interests of the child and also with Article 23 of Directive 2013/33/EU?