

**Question for written answer E-004602/2020
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: The illegal expulsion of asylum seekers in Greece

New allegations show that at least 1 072 refugees have been secretly expelled from Europe's borders by the Greek authorities. An article for the *New York Times* reveals that Greek officials have sailed asylum seekers to the edge of Greek territorial waters and abandoned them in inflatable and overburdened life rafts ¹.

Given that the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights guarantees the right to asylum (Article 18) and explicitly prohibits collective expulsions (Article 19), the Asylum Procedures Directive requires Member States to register asylum applications (Article 6), and the Reception Conditions Directive lays down the standards for the reception of applicants, including an adequate standard of living (Article 17),

1. How will the Council successfully reform the Common European Asylum System under the German Presidency to ensure that humanitarian standards are complied with and the mistreatment of asylum seekers by Member States will not be tolerated?
2. What solutions does the Council envisage to ensure that Member States abide by international and EU law when dealing with asylum seekers in the Mediterranean?

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/14/world/europe/greece-migrants-abandoning-sea.html?referringSource=articleShare>