

**Question for written answer E-002493/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Frontex's role in illegal mass expulsions at EU borders

A recent report in *The Guardian* links the deaths of 2 000 asylum seekers to illegal mass expulsions (up to 40 000) carried out by EU Member States<sup>1</sup>. The report includes testimonies denouncing the use of extreme violence and sexual abuse by border guards from several EU countries, who are supported by Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

In November 2020 the Frontex Management Board Working Group (of which the Commission is a member) opened an investigation into Frontex's practices, which concluded in March 2021 stating that there was 'no substantial evidence of fundamental rights infringements', and that it had not been possible to investigate three cases due to the reluctance of the Agency to provide access to necessary documentation<sup>2</sup>. The Management Board asked the Executive Director to provide the documentation as soon as possible.

1. Did the investigation take into account all the cases reported in *The Guardian*?
2. Has the Commission already obtained access to the documentation requested?
3. Following up on this report, will the Commission call for a new investigation into Frontex, and propose legislative reforms to put an immediate stop to the illegal anti-human rights practices at EU borders?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/may/05/revealed-2000-refugee-deaths-linked-to-eu-pushbacks>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.statewatch.org/analyses/2021/frontex-investigations-what-changes-in-the-eu-border-agency-s-accountability/>