

**Question for written answer E-003495/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Arrest of Dutch journalist Ingeborg Beugel in Greece

Dutch journalist Ingeborg Beugel was arrested for the offence of intentionally assisting aliens to illegally reside within the territory of a Member State, contrary to Directive 2002/90 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence. The Directive makes intent a condition for the imposition of sanctions.

The Union's institutions consciously sought to distinguish smuggling from acts of active solidarity by civil society, which, after all, not only do not interfere with the legal procedures for examining asylum applications, but effectively facilitate refugee management.

Ingeborg Beugel was reporting on refugee flows and was arrested in Greece on 13 June 2021 pursuant to the provisions of Article 29(6) of Law 4251/2014 for offering to host a refugee of Afghan origin while the proceedings regarding the legalisation of his residence in Greece were still pending. She is now facing a prison sentence, even though it does not appear that it was her intention to obtain financial benefit from the refugee's stay in her home. This is also not mentioned in her indictment.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that acts of active solidarity are not disapproved of and prosecuted by Member States, since those acts are essentially different from the acts described in Directive 2002/90?

Supporters¹

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), Dietmar Köster (S&D)