

**Question for written answer E-003810/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Group pushbacks by Bulgarian authorities

During a mission to northern Greece, MEPs from The Left Group met victims of violent expulsion towards Greece by the Bulgarian authorities. Greek police confirmed at least three incidents of 'group pushbacks', one having occurred a month ago at the Greek-Bulgarian border. 75 people were found on Greek territory naked, abused and with their belongings taken. All of them reported that they had been pushed back to Greece from Bulgaria by the Bulgarian authorities. Greek police confirmed to MEPs that Frontex officers participated in the debriefings of the victims of these incidents. They could not clarify what Frontex has done with this information.

What action is the Commission willing to take with respect to Bulgaria, given that this incident violates Directive 2008/115/EC and the EU asylum acquis, also in view of the European Court of Human Rights ruling condemning Italy for the unregistered, indiscriminate readmission of persons to Greece¹, and with respect to Greece in view of the shortcomings of its asylum system?

Does the Commission intend to follow up with Frontex on these incidents, also regarding the fulfilment of its mission in accordance with binding regulations?

What were the steps and follow-up by Frontex as regards the incidents? Has Frontex filed serious incident reports (SIRs) for any of these incidents, and if not, why were these reports not filed and why were the issues not made public?

Supporter²

¹ Violating the prohibition of collective expulsion, the prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to effective remedy.

² This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE)