

**Question for written answer E-005427/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sira Rego (The Left), **Konstantinos Arvanitis** (The Left), **Cornelia Ernst** (The Left), **Anne-Sophie Pelletier** (The Left), **Pernando Barrena Arza** (The Left), **Clare Daly** (The Left), **Malin Björk** (The Left)

Subject: Record of deportations by Frontex

A report by the Executive Director¹ of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) reveals that in the first half of 2021, Frontex was involved in the deportation of 8 239 people. This is 9 % more than in the same period in 2019 and twice as many as in 2020. However, return operations supervised by human rights monitors fell by 7 % and only 47 % of the flights coordinated by Frontex had at least one monitor present², violating its own regulation³.

We also learned that the new fundamental rights officer at Frontex has expressed concern about some of its practices and feels that his advice is not being followed⁴.

1. Does the Commission consider not guaranteeing the presence of monitors in return operations to be a violation of Directive 2008/115/EC and Regulation (EU) No 2019/1896?
2. Given the allegations of rights violations in return operations, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure an independent monitoring system and that return operations respect fundamental rights?
3. What initiatives and concrete measures will the Commission propose in view of the comments made by the new Frontex fundamental rights officer?

¹ <https://www.statewatch.org/media/2951/eu-frontex-return-report-first-half-2021-13405-21.pdf>

² <https://www.statewatch.org/news/2021/november/eu-deportations-at-record-levels-as-frontex-foresees-an-unprecedented-number-of-post-pandemic-removals/>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/ES/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1896>

⁴ <https://euobserver.com/migration/153666>