

**Question for written answer E-000299/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sophia in 't Veld (Renew), **Cornelia Ernst** (The Left), **Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Infringements of EU law at the Eastern external border

In meeting of Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of 13 January, Commissioners Schinas and Johansson were asked whether the Commission will start infringement procedures for EU law violations at the Eastern external borders. These violations include pushbacks, hindered access to asylum procedures, bad reception conditions and abuse of asylum seekers.

Commissioner Johansson said that there were 'clear indications' that the 'EU acquis is infringed here'.

Commissioner Schinas responded that 'infringement procedures will happen if the Commission finds sufficient grounds that justify this happening'. He also said 'solid evidence' is needed, and added that it is 'in the hands of the Commissioner' to 'establish if the case is applicable'.

1. From the answers of the two Commissioners, it seems that one (Johansson) considers that infringements are happening, while the other (Schinas) implies that there is not enough evidence. Can the Commission clarify which answer is correct?
2. If the answer of Commissioner Johansson is correct, why has the Commission not yet started an infringement procedure against the Member States concerned?
3. It appears that Commissioner Schinas considers that Commissioner Johansson is solely responsible for starting an infringement procedure here. Can the Commissioners clarify who is empowered to take that decision and what internal decision making procedures are applicable?