

**Question for written answer E-000309/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU funding of a biometric surveillance programme in Greece

According to Human Rights Watch, the Greek authorities are planning a new police programme using hand-held devices to scan people's faces and fingerprints, gathering people's biometric information on a vast scale to cross-check it against police, immigration and private sector databases for immigration purposes.

This programme will cost an estimated EUR 4.5 million and is funded 75 % under the EU Internal Security Fund.

We are extremely concerned that this programme violates EU fundamental rights and will exacerbate the broadly documented rights violations of migrants and marginalised groups by police in Greece.

1. Does the Commission consider this programme to be compliant with the Law Enforcement Directive (Directive (EU) 2016/680), in particular Articles 8 and 10 thereof, and with EU fundamental rights, particularly the rights to privacy, non-discrimination and a fair trial?
2. If so, how has the Commission assessed this in advance to ensure that EU-funded projects are made conditional on respect for human rights, and in particular for biometric technologies with a high-risk of rights violations? (See EDPS-EDPB Joint Opinion 5/2021).
3. The programme is currently being investigated by the Greek Data Protection Authority. If the programme is found to violate fundamental rights, will the Commission retract its funding and stop future funding of biometric surveillance programmes?