EN
E-001438/2022
Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.6.2022)

The Commission is deeply concerned about all reports and allegations of pushbacks and mistreatment, and takes these very seriously. The Commission continues to call on all Member States concerned to fully and credibly investigate allegations, establish the facts and to take the necessary follow-up actions if wrongdoing is established.

National administrative and judicial authorities have the direct responsibility to ensure the respect and the protection of fundamental rights on their territories, including at the external borders. The Commission is aware that investigations are ongoing including the by National Transparency Authority (NTA) and the Greek Ombudsman. The first investigation by the NTA regarding the Lighthouse Report has been concluded. On this basis, the Commission will remain in contact with the Greek authorities to ensure that monitoring mechanisms that are put in place are effective and have the necessary means to investigate and follow up any allegation.

The Commission remains committed to ensuring the effective protection of our external borders in full compliance with the applicable provisions of EU law, including those safeguarding fundamental rights. Regarding the involvement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) in any such incidents as referred to by the Honourable Members the Commission has asked the Agency to reply and the Agency’s reply will be sent by the Commission to the Honourable Members as soon as possible.