The Commission is aware that persons arriving irregularly through the Evros land border with Turkey are transferred to the Fylakio Reception and Identification Centre, where they are subject to the reception and identification procedure and undergo medical assessment, registration of personal data, fingerprinting, and information provision, and are channelled to the follow-up procedures, such as asylum for those applying for international protection, or return for those who do not.

With regard to administrative detention in the context of the reception and identification procedure, in line with Article 6 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, Article 8(3) of the Reception Conditions Directive foresees an exhaustive list of grounds under which the applicant may be detained, if less coercive alternative measures cannot be applied effectively. Among these is the need to determine or verify the person’s identity or nationality. However, such decisions need to be taken on the basis of an individual assessment of each case. The Commission is following closely the situation on the ground, and remains in dialogue with the Greek authorities.

The Commission does not collect any statistics on ‘preventions’ and does not possess the information requested by the Honourable Member.

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