1. The competence to investigate cases of alleged pushbacks lies with national authorities. In this context, the Greek authorities informed the Commission of measures taken to ensure compliance with fundamental rights. This includes internal control procedures, investigations by independent authorities, and the possibility of Public Prosecutors to investigate allegations\(^1\). The Commission will continue working with the Greek authorities to monitor the progress made.

2. Vice-President Schinas does not have a conflict of interest. According to the Code of Conduct for the Members of the Commission, a conflict of interest arises where a personal interest may influence the independent performance of the duties of a Member of the Commission. Personal interests include, but are not limited to, any potential benefit or advantage to Members themselves, their spouses, partners or direct family members. A conflict of interest does not exist where a Member is only concerned as a member of the general public or of a broad class of persons\(^2\). Consequently, the affiliation to a political party, like political convictions, does not create a conflict of interest.

3. Member States have an obligation under EU law to prevent and discourage unauthorised crossings of the EU external borders, in compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including the right to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. Respect for fundamental rights is a non-negotiable component of the implementation of European integrated border management and the Commission has repeatedly called on the responsible national authorities to investigate allegations thoroughly and, where substantiated, bring those responsible to justice.

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\(^1\) According to the new proposals, the Greek authorities will work further on a three tier set-up, relying on: a) internal control procedures tasked with the investigation and prosecution of criminal acts arising in the context of operations by the Hellenic Police or the Hellenic Coastguard, b) investigations by independent authorities such as the Greek Ombudsman and the National Transparency Authority, and c) the possibility of public prosecutors to investigate allegations, following a relevant complaint or press and NGO reports. Most recently, following discussions between Commissioner Johansson and the responsible Ministers in Greece on 30 June 2022, the Greek authorities adopted legal provisions that include the establishment of a Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO) position and a specific Committee on Fundamental Rights monitoring within the Ministry for Migration and Asylum. The Fundamental Rights Officer and the Committee will look both into complaints related to border operations and to asylum procedures.