

**Question for written answer E-004030/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Peter van Dalen (PPE)

Subject: Reports on clandestine prisons and pushbacks at EU external borders

On 8 December 2022, the collaborative research organisation Lighthouse Reports reported on the degrading conditions asylum seekers face at the borders of Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary¹. There are allegedly clandestine prisons at various locations along the external borders in which people are held before being pushed back across the border. According to Lighthouse Reports, such activities are co-funded by the EU.

1. Is it true that the EU contributes to clandestine prisons, pushbacks and the other things mentioned in the Lighthouse Reports investigation that violate basic human rights?
2. What will the European Commission and Frontex do to ensure that action is taken against such abuses, and that the EU does not contribute to their existence?
3. What consequences does the European Commission foresee for these countries if such abuses continue, and is it prepared to review the funding received by these countries?

Submitted: 8.12.2022

¹ <https://www.lighthousereports.nl/investigation/europes-black-sites/>