

**Question for written answer E-000257/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Practice of illegal pushbacks of asylum seekers on commercial ships from Italy to Greece

Lighthouse Reports, together with SRF, ARD Monitor, Al Jazeera, Il Domani and Solomon, published an article on 18 January 2023 documenting the practice of illegal pushbacks on commercial ships from Italy to Greece. Evidence shows that asylum seekers apprehended by Italian authorities in Adriatic ports cannot seek asylum on arrival. Instead, they are detained at the port and then deported back to Greece. People of Afghan, Syrian and Iraqi origin have reported being imprisoned in separated facilities on passenger ships while being deported from Italy to Greece, handcuffed and confined to small spaces.

1. To what extent is this practice compatible with the EU's asylum acquis?
2. Is the bilateral readmission agreement between Italy and Greece compatible with the EU acquis?
3. How will the Commission follow up on the aforementioned report?

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