

**Question for written answer E-000698/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Dietmar Köster (S&D)**

Subject: Border procedures in Greece

At the end of 2021, Greece stopped using the ‘fast-track border procedure’ permitted in cases of mass arrivals<sup>1</sup>. However, it continues to apply border procedures to persons applying for asylum in multi-purpose reception and identification centres (RICs) on five islands, and in two RICs recently established on the mainland, which do not constitute border points or transit zones. In border procedures, the Greek authorities process asylum applications on their merits, without having established grounds for applying the accelerated procedure.

1. Does the Commission consider the use of border procedures in locations outside of border points and transit zones, in circumstances that do not involve large numbers of arrivals, to be compatible with Article 43 of the Asylum Procedures Directive?
2. Does the Commission consider the use of border procedures to examine the merits of asylum applications beyond those falling within the scope of Article 31(8) of the Asylum Procedures Directive to be compatible with Article 43 of the Asylum Procedures Directive?

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<sup>1</sup> Article 43(3) of Directive 2013/32/EU of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (Asylum Procedures Directive), as transposed by Article 95(3) of Law 4939/2022.