

**Question for written answer E-001791/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Illegal pushbacks in Greece

A video released by the *New York Times*¹ in May 2023 shows shocking evidence of an illegal pushback that took place in Greece on 11 April 2023. On the island of Lesbos, 12 migrants, including men, women, children and an infant, were locked inside an unmarked van. They were then forced to board a speedboat, transferred to a Hellenic Coast Guard vessel and abandoned in the middle of the Aegean Sea on an inflatable emergency raft, which was eventually picked up by the Turkish Coast Guard Command.

These events constitute a clear and serious violation of EU and international law and in particular of the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement.

- 1) What measures has the Commission taken or will it take to investigate and prevent similar violations in the future, in order to ensure the protection of migrants' rights?
- 2) How will it ensure that Greece fully respects its obligations under EU asylum rules and international law, including the obligation to provide access to a fair and efficient asylum procedure for all individuals seeking international protection?

Submitted: 5.6.2023

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/19/world/europe/greece-migrants-abandoned.html>.