

**Question for written answer E-001979/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Actions by the Hellenic Coast Guard in the shipwreck incident of 14 June 2023 off Greek coast

On 14 June 2023, at least 79 people drowned off the coast of Greece when an overcrowded fishing vessel carrying between 500 and 700 migrants capsized and perished. According to the official statement from the Hellenic Coast Guard¹, both its helicopter and boat had been monitoring the vessel for many hours before it sank.

- 1) Did Frontex have any information – through its aerial surveillance assets, or otherwise – about this vessel at any time during its course and, if so, what actions did it take?
- 2) What information does the Commission have about this incident and what actions will it take to assess whether the Greek authorities acted in line with their obligations under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue to rescue persons in distress?
- 3) Does the Commission agree that a heavily overcrowded vessel for which distress calls have been launched should be considered a distress case, regardless of whether those on board have expressed a desire to be rescued and, if so, what measures will it take in response to the Greek authorities' undue delay in carrying out a search and rescue operation?

Submitted: 20.6.2023

¹ https://www.hcg.gr/el/drasthriothtes/synexeia-enhmerwshs-anaforika-me-eyreia-epixeirhsh-ereynas-kai-diaswshs-allodapwn-se-die8nh-ydata-sth-8alassia-perioxh-47-nm-notiodytika-pyloy_/.