

**Question for written answer E-001988/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Georgios Kyrtos (Renew)

Subject: EU migration initiatives in light of the Pylos tragedy

The recent tragedy that unfolded 47 miles off the coast of the Peloponnese, with more than 500 people dead or missing, highlights the urgent need for Member States and the EU to take targeted, joint action to save lives at sea and drastically reduce the number of perilous journeys.

Although positive steps have been taken to forge a common European policy on asylum and migration, successive tragic events have shown that we have a long way to go to create a safer environment in the countries of origin, preventing perilous journeys from taking place.

In view of this, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Do the port authorities of each Member State have up-to-date instructions and protocols on handling situations such as the one witnessed in Pylos, i.e. an overcrowded vessel belonging to people smugglers, sailing 40 miles outside Greek territorial waters?
2. Does it believe that there should be an EU investigation into what happened and that the Greek coastguard and FRONTEX should be held accountable (if applicable), so that any mistakes or oversights are not repeated when future crises occur, avoiding such a massive death toll?

Submitted:21.6.2023