

**Question for written answer E-000366/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Stelios Kouloglou (The Left)

Subject: Frontex reveals rescue was not objective of Greek authorities in Pylos shipwreck

A report by Frontex's Fundamental Rights Office, which has been made public, reveals the prolonged inaction of the Greek Coast Guard in the Pylos shipwreck case, which cost the lives of more than 600 refugees and migrants on 14 June 2023¹. The report concludes that the 'immediate focus prior to the shipwreck was not rescue', and suggests the boat may have capsized as a result of the attempt to tow it. It also highlights that: the Greek authorities did not start the search and rescue operation as soon as Frontex informed them about it but when the boat had already capsized; the attempts to assist the boat put passengers on board the Adriana in greater danger; the coast guard vessel recorded the dangerous rocking of the Adriana; connecting ropes to the migrant boat bore significant risks; and the resources deployed were insufficient.

These were precisely the conclusions drawn at two events I recently organised in Brussels and Athens to shed light on the causes and circumstances of the deadly shipwreck. At these events, we heard from experts, analysts and lawyers, and from survivors who revealed that the Coast Guard abandoned them when the migrant boat sunk.²

In view of this:

1. Will the Commission seek explanations and an update from the Greek authorities?
2. How does it comment on the delay in the investigations of the judicial authorities and the risk of a cover-up?

Submitted: 2.2.2024

¹ <https://tvxs.gr/news/ellada/nayagio-stin-pylo-aporrito-eggrafo-tis-frontex-ekthetei-tis-ellinikes-arches-den-itan-stochos-i-diasosi/>

² <https://www.news247.gr/magazine/reportage/navagio-stin-pilo-afou-vouliaxame-giati-mas-egkateleipsan/>