

**Question for written answer E-000837/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Deadly accident caused by circulation of illegal flares in Greece

Yet another young citizen, this time in Crete, has sadly lost their life due to the Greek government's failure to properly and fully comply with its obligations under Directives (EU) 2019/69 and 2021/555 concerning firearms and specifically alarm and signal weapons (including marine distress/signal flares), in particular in terms of monitoring compliance with the strict technical specifications laid down in these directives.

The evidence disclosed thus far shows that the above incident resulted from the use of an expired fishing boat flare. Although the Greek government has been warned about this issue by the opposition and the Commission and despite the fact that a separate serious incident had taken place not long before this one, involving the use of a similar flare which also claimed the life of a police officer, the Greek government has, to this date, not provided for a legislative framework to ensure the safe trade, transportation and disposal of such flares.

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

What steps will it take to ensure the effective transposition of the above directives by the Greek government and to protect the health and physical integrity of citizens from the uncontrolled use of weapons that do not fulfil the required technical specifications?

Submitted: 19.3.2024