

**Priority question for written answer P-000665/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pushbacks by the Croatian police

As reported by the Croatian portal Index.hr, Croatian border guards receive official instructions for pushbacks. So they follow orders and do not carry out the pushbacks as they see fit, as the Croatian Government has so far claimed. The instructions are a response to a video published by Spiegel and ARD in October, in which Croatian border guards were filmed conducting violent pushbacks. I have been waiting nearly four months for the Commission's reply to my request concerning the videos.

The instructions, which have now come to light, urge the border guards to stop films of themselves during pushbacks being made and to search the surrounding area for hidden cameras before carrying out pushbacks. The pushbacks themselves are, it seems, continuing as usual.

1. How will the Commission investigate these state-ordered pushbacks, and what importance will it attach to the results of this investigation in terms of the procedure for Croatia's accession to the Schengen area?
2. Does the Commission expect changes to be made to the 'independent surveillance mechanism' at the external border, in the light of the apparent lack of interest on the part of the Croatian government in investigating human rights violations for which it is responsible?
3. Does the Commission consider the Croatian Ministry of the Interior's statements that the Croatian Government has nothing to do with pushbacks and that this is wrongdoing by individual officials to be credible?