The Commission is deeply concerned about all reports and allegations of pushbacks and mistreatment. Any act of violence or pushback is illegal and must be investigated by the national authorities responsible to establish the facts and take the necessary follow-up actions.

The Commission is aware of increased flows at the land border with Turkey over the last months and the threat caused by smuggling networks using the dangerous pattern of abandoning migrants on the islets of Evros River.

In line with the Common Provisions Regulation\(^1\), Member States need to put in place effective mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (Enabling Conditions). The Commission is assessing the mechanisms put in place in Greece, including the independent mechanism to monitor and prevent push-backs, in the context of the Greek programmes under the Home Affairs Funds. If the Commission considers that an enabling condition is not fulfilled, the expenditure related to the operations may be included in the payment applications, but shall not be reimbursed until the Commission has informed the respective Member State on the fulfilment of the enabling condition.

The Commission reviews all relevant information at its disposal and engages with the Greek authorities in charge of the control mechanisms and of effectively investigating allegations. The Commission is also working with Greece in the context of the Task Force Migration Management\(^2\) and provides feedback to strengthen the effectiveness of the monitoring and follow up arrangements put in place by the Greek authorities, aiming at fully implementing the obligations under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and EU law, including the principle of non-refoulement.

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