

**Question for written answer E-001796/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), **Pietro Bartolo** (S&D), **Juan Fernando López Aguilar** (S&D), **Alessandra Moretti** (S&D), **Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE), **Yana Toom** (Renew), **Isabel Carvalhais** (S&D), **Dietmar Köster** (S&D), **Theresa Bielowski** (S&D), **Grace O'Sullivan** (Verts/ALE), **Rosa D'Amato** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **José Gusmão** (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left), **Malin Björk** (The Left), **Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left), **Matjaž Nemec** (S&D), **Ernest Urtasun** (Verts/ALE), **Brando Benifei** (S&D), **Massimiliano Smeriglio** (S&D), **Pierre Larrousurou** (S&D), **Eugenia Rodríguez Palop** (The Left), **Erik Marquardt** (Verts/ALE), **Fabio Massimo Castaldo** (NI), **Laura Ferrara** (NI), **Pina Picierno** (S&D), **Sylvie Guillaume** (S&D)

Subject: Illegal expulsions by Greece

As revealed by a *New York Times* investigation, the Greek authorities illegally expelled 12 people in Lesbos on 11 April 2023, including several young children. The expulsion was partly carried out using a speedboat that was mostly paid for with EU funds. The asylum seekers were pushed onto a black inflatable life raft and set adrift. According to the *New York Times*, the use of these engineless rafts, which are not seaworthy and can overturn, has been documented in the past, but the Greek authorities have denied leaving migrants afloat in them.

On 12 May 2023, the Greek Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, declared himself to be 'extremely proud' of the 'tough but fair' migration policies implemented by his government, which had 'reduced irregular arrivals by 90 %'. On 22 May 2023, Commissioner Johansson tweeted that a formal request had been sent to the Greek authorities for the incident to be fully and independently investigated, including through the new independent monitoring mechanism, and added that the Commission stood ready to take formal steps.

- 1) Considering the Greek authorities' blatant disregard for their legal obligations, is the Commission ready to open infringement proceedings?
- 2) Considering that facilities financed with EU funds have been used to carry out illegal expulsions, will it trigger the rule-of-law conditionality mechanism?

Submitted: 5.6.2023