

**Question for written answer E-001985/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)**

**Subject:** Athens: the ‘accidental deaths’ of two migrants

Within the space of 10 days, two migrants have lost their lives under exceptionally suspicious circumstances, in two different police stations in Athens (a 37-year-old Pakistani national in Agios Panteleimonas police station on 21 September, and a 29-year-old Bangladeshi man in Omonia police station on 1 October). In both cases, the official explanations of the Greek police have been insufficient, not to say contradictory, while in both cases there are strong indications of racist motives<sup>1</sup>. The cases have been widely reported in Greece and abroad<sup>2</sup> and experts from the UN are arriving shortly to inspect and record the conditions in Greek police stations, while the Ombudsman has become involved in the investigation.

It should be pointed out that in July 2023, after the experts’ visit, the Council of Europe’s Committee for the Prevention of Torture stated that it: ‘received several credible and consistent allegations of deliberate physical ill-treatment of detained foreign nationals by police officers in certain police stations (particularly in Omonia) in Athens’. In its report – published a month ago – the Hellenic League for Human Rights notes that police violence has increased in recent years and points out that ‘the Greek Ombudsman has been compelled to investigate more than 1 200 cases in the space of just five years, and these represent only the tip of the iceberg’.

In view of this:

1. How could the Commission support efforts to tackle the serious shortcomings in the operation of the Greek police in line with the rule of law?
2. What EU tools for the education and training of police officers can the Greek police make use of in order to eliminate tragic events of this nature?

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<sup>1</sup> For example, the death of the 29-year-old was attributed to suicide despite the fact that he was being held in a cell with 11(!) other detainees, while the 37-year-old’s death was said to have pathological causes. However, no explanation was given as to why he was transferred from one police station to another, why for days he had had no communication with his family or with his lawyer, why the location where he was found dead was not monitored by security cameras like the rest of the police station, why he had bruising all over his body and why he had not received treatment even though he was injured and was running amok.

<sup>2</sup> E.g. [https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/10/07/a-athenes-la-mort-d-un-migrant-pakistanais-dans-un-commissariat-suscite-l-indignation\\_6345559\\_3210.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/10/07/a-athenes-la-mort-d-un-migrant-pakistanais-dans-un-commissariat-suscite-l-indignation_6345559_3210.html)