

**Question for written answer E-002363/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Unilateral abolition of the Schengen Treaty

As the main entry point for thousands of migrants coming to the EU each year, Greece acts as a sort of breakwater, bearing a disproportionate burden in hosting them compared to most other Member States. The vast majority of migrants enter the EU by irregular means after falling victim to exploitation by organised criminal networks.

Compared to the first half of 2023¹, Greece saw an exponential (122 %)² increase in migration flows during the same period in 2024. This rate is set to increase further as a result of the conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. Meanwhile, Member States (such as Germany) are de facto abolishing the Schengen Treaty, imposing strict border controls, immediate deportations, and fast-track returns – even for people who have a right to asylum – to countries of first entry such as Greece, which has turned into a migrant warehouse.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission plan to address the above practices of the de facto abolition of Schengen, which go against the principles of necessity and proportionality under Articles 25(2) and 26 of Regulation (EU) 2016/399³?
2. Does it intend to take decisive action to create an effective European pushback mechanism for sending irregular migrants back to their countries of origin and to tackle illegal human trafficking networks in the EU?
3. How does it plan to show practical solidarity with Greece considering the disproportionate burden it has to bear?

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¹ <https://slpress.gr/politiki/metanastefiko-sinexizetai-o-siopiros-epoikismos-tis-elladas/>

² <https://www.newmoney.gr/roh/palmos-oikonomias/ellada/ekthesi-frontex-gia-metanastefiko-afxisi-39-stis-metanastefikes-roes-pros-tin-ellada-to-2024/>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32016R0399>