

**Question for written answer E-003276/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: The collapse of the asylum system in Crete highlights the failure of EU external border protection and the overloading of national reception capacities

Since the beginning of the year, according to official data, already more than 9000 migrants have arrived in the Southern Aegean via the Libya-Crete route. The island of Crete declared a state of emergency and registration centres were overwhelmed by the influx, forcing the Greek government to impose a three-month ban on sea arrivals from North Africa. The adopted bill stipulates that migrants from North Africa will initially be detained in Crete without immediate access to asylum procedures. After a period of three months, accelerated deportation is envisaged. This measure is an impressive illustration of the fact that the Member States' reception capacities are finally exhausted. It is of particular concern that the majority of these migrants stem from Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sudan, i.e. countries whose residents are not entitled to asylum in Europe.

1. What immediate measures will the Commission take to effectively secure the EU's external border off Crete (e.g. stepping up Frontex air and sea patrols and immediate support for registration and return procedures)?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of the three-month suspension of reception of sea arrivals from North Africa in Crete and the subsequent accelerated deportations?
3. Given the persistent lack of willingness to cooperate on the part of numerous countries of origin, will the Commission finally consider effective and tangible sanction mechanisms beyond mere visa restrictions?

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