

Question for written answer E-004791/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Arash Saeidi (The Left)

Subject: Deportation of Elena Mistrello: a serious aberration against free movement and freedom of expression

When Elena Mistrello, an Italian comic book author and EU citizen, landed at the airport in France on 21 November 2025, she was refused entry into the country, despite having been invited to the BD Colomiers comics festival to introduce her award-winning book *Syndrome Italie*. She was informed by the border police that she was a ‘serious threat to public policy’ and discovered that she was subject to an entry ban, without having been previously informed of such a decision or its legal basis.

Directive 2004/38/EC grants EU citizens the right to enter another Member State (Articles 4 and 5), and restrictions on grounds of public policy must be based on the personal conduct of the person concerned, constitute a sufficiently serious threat and comply with the principles of necessity and proportionality, as well as with procedural safeguards, such as notification of the decision and access to judicial review (Articles 27, 28 and 30 to 32).

How does the Commission intend to ensure that France and the other Member States strictly apply those requirements, particularly when the grounds relied on relate to political, artistic or cultural expression?

Submitted: 3.12.2025