

**Question for written answer E-001523/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Unofficial migrant mercenaries used by the Greek authorities in mass pushback operations

Today, a BBC article¹ revealed that Greek law enforcement authorities have been using migrants to assist them in large-scale pushback operations targeting hundreds of other migrants each week at the country's land border with Türkiye. Masked mercenaries are recruited from countries such as Pakistan, Syria and Afghanistan, and rewarded with cash, valuables and mobile phones looted from other migrants, as well as with papers allowing them passage through Greece.

Confirming earlier (2022) allegations by Lighthouse Reports and Frontex's Fundamental Rights Office itself, the article refers to internal police documents describing the informal recruitment of so-called migrant mercenaries as early as 2020, as ordered and overseen by senior officers. The BBC's findings include allegations of extreme violence, with testimonies indicating that migrants and asylum seekers have been stripped, robbed, beaten until they passed out, and even sexually assaulted.

Although the Greek Prime Minister claimed that he was unaware of the allegations about the use of mercenaries, the investigative team's police sources asserted that 'there is no soldier, police officer or Frontex officer serving here in Evros who does not know that pushbacks are taking place.'

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. What action does it intend to take in response to these allegations?
2. What measures could it take to improve early intervention and deterrence procedures in similar/related cases?

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¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86vpq42dl0o>