Question for written answer E-001563/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: The use of Afghan paramilitaries by the Greek authorities for pushbacks

A serious incident report of Frontex's Fundamental Rights Office[1] reveals that on 22 June 2023, Greek authorities used Afghan paramilitaries to violently push a group of 61 asylum seekers, including 11 children, back to Türkiye over the Evros, while subjecting them to inhuman treatment. The pushback was done by three Greek police officers and 10-20 masked, armed third-country nationals, reported to be Afghan paramilitaries. The Fundamental Rights Office concludes that they acted under the instruction and effective control of the Greek authorities, and describes the use of mercenaries in pushbacks as 'a matter of coordinated policy' in the Evros region. The Greek authorities have denied this incident.

1. Is the Commission or Frontex aware of collaboration with, or use of, mercenaries or paramilitaries from Afghanistan or other third countries by the Greek authorities in the context of pushbacks? Are other cases of such collaboration known, and if so how many, and does this constitute an official or de facto policy of the Greek authorities? Please share any information at the disposal of Frontex or the Commission.

2. What measures will the Commission take to hold the Greek authorities accountable for these pushbacks, to ensure swift further investigation of this incident by the Greek authorities, and to eliminate the systematic practice of both Greek collaboration with foreign paramilitaries on pushbacks and of the pushbacks themselves?

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[1] SIR 13125/2023, https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/document/serious-incident-reports-cat-1-2/.