

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001648/25
to the Commission
Sandro Ruotolo (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE)
(24 April 2025)**

Subject: Human rights violation in the Italian detention and repatriation centre in Albania

In April, we inspected the Italian detention and repatriation centre in Gjadër, Albania, to verify the conditions of the migrants held there.

We witnessed and heard directly the following:

People are randomly taken by the Italian authorities, handcuffed without justification and transferred to Albania without explanation.

There is a lack of independent medical support on-site. The healthcare personnel are provided by the managing entity and cannot assess whether individuals are fit for detention. That assessment depends on a commission in Rome, which arbitrarily decides whether detainees are examined on-site or remotely.

During the sea crossing, migrants remain in restraint and, upon arrival, they are held in conditions that cause psychological distress. They are only allowed one five minute phone call per day. For the first days most had not yet had contact with a lawyer.

The ‘critical incidents’ report lists 22 episodes in just one week caused by anxiety, self-harm and suicide attempts linked to addiction to psychiatric medication.

Given that the Commission has referred to this centre as part of ‘innovative solutions’ for migration management, we ask:

1. whether it intends to carry out an inspection of the centre;
2. whether it considers that these practices violate the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

Submitted: 24.4.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(18 July 2025)**

The Protocol on migration signed between Italy and Albania in 2023 is a bilateral initiative between these two countries. Member States may apply national legislation implementing EU law, including asylum law, to situations which fall outside the scope of EU law, provided that such application does not undermine or circumvent the application of harmonised rules or obligations under EU law as a whole.

The Commission takes note of the information provided by the Honourable Members. The Commission follows the initiative carried out by Italy and Albania closely and continuously assesses its compliance with EU law and fundamental rights.
