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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.9.2025)

The Commission maintains that progress in investigations on alleged pushback incidents is necessary to ensure accountability. The Rule of Law Report Chapter for Greece for 2025¹ underlines that progress with the judicial investigation following the Pylos shipwreck is a positive development to start addressing deficiencies in investigating incidents of alleged misconduct involving law enforcement officers.

The National Transparency Authority is one of the independent authorities comprising the monitoring mechanism. The Commission will continue focusing its attention on ensuring that it has the appropriate means to perform efficient and effective investigations.

The legal framework and criteria for ensuring respect for fundamental rights in the implementation of Home Affairs Funds in the 2021-2027 programming period are set out in the Common Provisions Regulation², which requires Member States to comply with the horizontal enabling condition (HEC) on the effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights³ (Charter HEC). The Commission assesses Member States' compliance with the Charter HEC at the level of the specific objectives in the programmes,⁴ examining whether a breach of the Charter is directly linked to the implementation of the programmes. The Commission does not carry out assessments outside of this framework. If, during programmes' implementation, the Commission considers that the Charter HEC is no longer fulfilled, it may block funding as per the applicable rules.

The guidance⁵ on ensuring respect for the Charter in the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI funds) remains valid.

¹ Commission Staff Working Document, 2025 Rule of Law Report, Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Greece accompanying the document Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, SWD(2025) 908 final.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, PE/47/2021/INIT, *OJ L 231*, 30.6.2021, pp. 159–706.

³ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2012/C 326/02.

⁴ In line with the procedures set out in Article 15 and Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

⁵ Commission notice - Guidance on ensuring the respect for the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union when implementing the European Structural and Investment Funds ('ESI Funds'), C/2016/4384, *OJ C 269*, 23.7.2016, pp. 1–19, 2016/C 269/01.