

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000362/26
to the Commission**

Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left), Estrella Galán (The Left), Birgit Sippel (S&D), Fabienne Keller (Renew), Cecilia Strada (S&D), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE)
(28 January 2026)

Subject: Draft law of the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum: blatant targeting of Civil Society in breach of EU rules

On 23 January 2026, the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum submitted provisions that flagrantly violate international and EU law ⁽¹⁾ and target civil society, contrary to the long-standing recommendations of the Rule of Law Report ⁽²⁾, only a few months after public threats were made by the Minister against organisations representing cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

Indicatively, the draft bill introduces offences of a special nature based solely on an individual's status as a member of an organisation registered in the Ministry's non-governmental organisation registry, upgrading misdemeanours such as the facilitation of irregular stay to felonies punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment and fines amounting to tens of thousands of euros. At the same time, the mere initiation of criminal proceedings suffices for the deletion of an organisation from the registry. As regards registration in the registry, the Minister retains unlimited discretionary power to unilaterally impose additional requirements.

In the light of the above:

What action does the Commission intend to take, and within what time frame, to ensure that Greek law aligns with the EU regulatory framework?

Submitted: 28.1.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(10 April 2026)

The Commission is aware of the latest developments raised by the Honourable Members concerning the law that was recently adopted in Greece.

The Commission shared its preliminary views on the draft legislation with the Greek authorities during the public consultation period ⁽¹⁾. The matter was also discussed during the recent meetings in January with the Greek Minister of Migration and Asylum.

In the exchanges with authorities in Greece, including in the context of the Rule of Law report, the Commission regularly recalled the need for establishing a regular and sustained structured dialogues with civil society organisations, as well as for the simplification of registration requirements to ensure an open and enabling framework for their operation.

The importance of structured dialogues with civil society organisations has also been emphasised as part of the recently adopted EU Strategy for Civil Society ⁽²⁾.

The Commission will analyse the adopted law carefully and remain in close contact with the Greek authorities to understand how it is intended to be implemented in practice.

The Commission will also continue to monitor the developments in the context of the Rule of Law Report process. The 2026 edition of the report, currently under preparation, will be published in July 2026.

¹ Articles 7, 8, 12 and 21(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; Articles 8, 11 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights; Articles 2 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; judgment of the Court of Justice of 18 June 2020, *Commission v Hungary*, Case C-78/18, ECLI:EU:C:2020:476, paragraphs 118 and 119; judgment of the European Court of Human Rights of 9 September 2025, *Ilareva and Others v Bulgaria*, Application No 24729/17, paragraph 100; Regulation (EU) 2024/1348 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU (OJ L, 2024/1348, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1348/oj>); Directive (EU) 2024/1346 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (OJ L, 2024/1346, 22.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1346/oj>); judgment of the Court of Justice of 16 November 2021, *Commission v Hungary*, Case C-821/19, ECLI:EU:C:2021:930, paragraphs 129, 130, 132 and 143; Council Directive 2002/90/EC of 28 November 2002 defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence (OJ L 328, 5.12.2002, p. 17, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/90/oj>); judgment of the Court of Justice of 3 June 2025, *OB v Procura della Repubblica presso il Tribunale di Bologna*, Case C-460/23, ECLI:EU:C:2025:392, paragraph 71; Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC, Article 18(1) (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 65, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/24/oj>); Commission guidance on the implementation of EU rules on definition and prevention of the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence (2020/C 323/01), paragraphs 4 and 5.

² SWD(2025) 908 final, page 3, 25-27; SWD(2024) 808 final, page 4, 40-43; SWD(2023) 808 final, page 3, 35-38; SWD(2022) 508 final, page 3, 26-28

⁽¹⁾ 30 December 2025 — 14 January 2026.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0790>.