

EN

E-000509/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.3.2026)

Every life lost at sea is a tragedy. The Commission is aware of the incident off the coast of Chios and remains in contact with the Greek authorities. As per information received, an investigation has been launched by the Central Port Authority of Chios which will establish the facts and determine the circumstances of this incident.

The Commission is committed to step up the fight against smuggling to prevent dangerous journeys, including through the reinforced Global Alliance as well as new tools to track digital and illicit financial activities and a new sanctions regime. In January 2026, the Commission put forward the European Asylum and Migration Management Strategy¹ which sets concrete priorities for the next five years, also focusing on the prevention of illegal migration and on breaking the business of criminal smuggling networks.

The Commission is open to contribute to the debate on innovative solutions to counter irregular migration. Any such solutions must fully comply with EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and respect international law, in particular the principle of *non-refoulement*.

¹ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/ce0d294e-5dd9-4e2a-bf68-53d9d16fc95a_en?filename=European%20Asylum%20and%20Migration%20Strategy.pdf.