

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000841/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(28 February 2026)**

Subject: Support for Yannis Vasilis Yaylalı

The recent rejection, at second instance, of the request for international protection of the Pontic Greek journalist-activist Yannis Vasilis Yaylalı by the Greek authorities raises serious issues of compliance with the EU asylum *acquis* and the fundamental principles of human rights protection, which, in theory, Türkiye is required to apply. According to publicly available information, spurious criminal prosecutions and arrest warrants are pending against him in Türkiye, related to his Greek identity and his political and journalistic activities, which raises reasonable concerns about a real risk of persecution, torture or inhuman treatment in the event of return, in violation of the principle of non-refoulement as enshrined in EU and international law and in a manner that is inconsistent with solidarity with our persecuted Pontian brothers.

Türkiye, as a truly authoritarian state, creates fabricated charges against any citizen who takes any action against the imposed Turkish-Islamic narrative.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the compatibility of this decision with the Asylum Procedures Directive, the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and the case law of the CJEU, with regard to the risk of political persecution of Yiannis Vasilis Yaylalı in Türkiye?
2. Does the Commission intend to request clarification from the Greek Ministry of Migration and Asylum or to examine the case from the perspective of a violation of the principle of non-refoulement?
3. What additional measures could the Commission take to ensure the safety of Yiannis Vasilis Yaylalı, who is at a well-documented risk of persecution due to his pro-Greek activities?

Submitted: 28.2.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

The rules on the assessment of applications for international protection are laid down in Directive 2011/95/EU ⁽¹⁾ and Directive 2013/32/EU ⁽²⁾.

The Commission does not assess the merits of individual applications and related decisions taken by national authorities, as this responsibility falls entirely within the competence of the Member States.

When applying these directives, Member States have to respect fundamental rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ⁽³⁾, including the principle of non-refoulement and the right to an effective legal remedy.

The Commission may decide to follow up on an individual case if the latter reveals a general practice of incorrect application of EU law in the Member State concerned or if it relates to a problem of compliance of national legislation with EU law.

The Commission closely monitors all Member States' implementation of the EU asylum rules, including compliance with fundamental rights.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (recast) (OJ L 337, 20.12.2011, p. 9-26: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/95/oj/eng>).

⁽²⁾ Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, pp. 60-95, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/32/oj>).

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12012P/TXT>.