

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001603/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(20 April 2026)**

Subject: Involvement of ‘mercenaries’ in pushback of refugees and migrants at Greek-Turkish border

According to serious allegations that have been made public by the BBC ⁽¹⁾, refugees and migrants are being used brutally treat and abuse other refugees and migrants, and even carry out sexual assaults, robberies, etc. at the Greek-Turkish border in Evros. The recruitment of other refugees and migrants as ‘mercenaries’ by the police for these despicable practices is allegedly done in exchange for the provision of legalisation documents, travel documents, residence permits, asylum status, etc. It is certainly an indisputable fact that the repressive military/police mechanism of the EU and Frontex was aware of the complaints, with a corresponding reference in its report ⁽²⁾ of 28 December 2025 on an incident that took place on 22 June 2023.

In response to these matters, the Greek Government not only fails to provide convincing answers, but attempts to cover up the criminal incidents and obscure the complaints in the name of ‘border security’.

The guidelines of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum further reinforce and strengthen this policy. The new regulation on returns and safe countries legitimises pushbacks.

In view of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the urgent need to investigate complaints and hold those responsible to account, both among the Greek authorities and Frontex?
2. What is the Commission’s position on the fact that such criminal practices are grounded in the European Union's own policy of repression and expulsions, another aspect of which is the savage exploitation of the uprooted?

Submitted: 20.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(12 June 2026)**

Investigating alleged cases of fundamental rights violations, exploitation and abuses is the responsibility of the relevant national authorities.

Activities carried out in the context of border management must comply with EU law, including the respect for fundamental rights. The Commission notes that the report referenced by the Honourable Member establishes that there was no involvement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency staff.

The Commission rejects suggestions that EU migration and asylum policies condone or legitimise fundamental rights abuses. The Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽³⁾ establishes a fair and firm system that manages migration and upholds fundamental rights.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86vpq42dl0o>.

² https://static.euobserver.com/2026/03/13125_2023-FINAL-SIR-cat.1_redacted-final.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/legislative-files-nutshell_en.