

EN

P-001465/2024

Answer given by Mr Reynders  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(6.9.2024)

The European Commission is aware of the case of Mr Watson but does not enjoy a general right of intervention in individual criminal, civil or administrative cases before national courts or other national authorities in the Member States. The Commission is also not competent to review and change the decisions of national authorities. Such powers lie exclusively with national justice systems.

As regards the laws applicable to the potential extradition of Mr Watson, it should be noted that neither the EU nor Denmark<sup>1</sup> has concluded bilateral agreements on extradition with Japan. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU ('the Charter'<sup>2</sup>) is not applicable to the requested extradition. However, the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR<sup>3</sup>), which Denmark (including Greenland) has ratified, is applicable to extradition request from third countries. Therefore, the human rights regulated by the ECHR must be respected by the Danish authorities when assessing and subsequently deciding on an extradition.

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<sup>1</sup> Greenland is not part of the EU – it is one of the overseas countries and territories mentioned in Annex II of the Treaties

<sup>2</sup> Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union. OJ C 364, 18.12.2000, p. 1–22. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12007P/TXT>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-convention>