

Question for written answer

to the Council

Rule 138

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Subject: Illegal expulsion of asylum seekers in Greece

New allegations show that at least 1,072 refugees have been secretly expelled from Europe's borders by the Greek authorities. The investigation shows that Greek officials have sailed asylum seekers off the Greek territorial waters and abandoned them in inflatable and overburdened life rafts¹.

Given that article 18 of the EU Charter guarantees the right to asylum, article 19 of the EU Charter explicitly prohibits collective expulsions, article 6 of the Asylum Procedures Directive require MS to register asylum applications and Reception Conditions Directive lays down the standards for the reception of applicants including an adequate standard of living (article 17),

- How will the Council under the German Presidency achieve a reform of the Common European Asylum System complying with humanitarian standards and not tolerating any mistreatment from Member States against asylum seekers?
- What solutions does the Council foresee to ensure that international and European law are respected by all Member States when dealing with asylum seekers in the Mediterranean?

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/14/world/europe/greece-migrants-abandoning-sea.html?referringSource=articleShare>