

**Question for written answer E-000238/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Fake news involving 38 migrants in Evros and criticism of the Greek authorities

An extensive report from the Greek newspaper 'Kathimerini' (22/01/2023) regarding 38 migrants in Evros contains allegations that the death of a little girl named Maria from a scorpion sting last August was 'stage managed' and that reports of the event were simply fake news. As a result, 'Der Spiegel' (30/12/2022) retracted its version of events and withdrew earlier articles published after 10 August 2022.

What started out as a shocking revelation involving a number of NGOs and media organisations and prompting intense discussions and criticism of the Greek authorities by EU institutions, including the Commission, ended up as allegedly fake news following reports that the girl's death had been staged.

In view of this and the possibly false impression created at European level, will the Commission say whether it intends to take action?

1. Will it retract its misleading statements that were based on fake news?
2. Will it launch an investigation with a view to preventing and countering such fake news?

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