

**Question for written answer E-002062/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), Dietmar Köster (S&D), Margarida Marques (S&D), Pietro Bartolo (S&D), Ibán García Del Blanco (S&D), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Maria Arena (S&D), Patrizia Toia (S&D), Barry Andrews (Renew), Massimiliano Smeriglio (S&D), Damien Carême (Verts/ALE), Raphaël Glucksmann (S&D), Milan Brglez (S&D), João Albuquerque (S&D), Matthias Ecke (S&D), Irene Tinagli (S&D), Brando Benifei (S&D), Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D), Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D), Sandro Gozi (Renew), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (The Left), Thijs Reuten (S&D), Pina Picierno (S&D), Manon Aubry (The Left)**

Subject: Criminal shipwreck in Greece

The most recent shipwreck in Greece will be one of the deadliest on record. The ship was carrying at least 400 people and perhaps as many as 750, according to survivors. Hundreds of children have most probably perished. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex, detected the boat at 11:47 on 13 June 2023 and alerted the Greek authorities. Two hours later, the Greek authorities dispatched a helicopter at 13:50. Finally, after intermittent monitoring, without any rescue operation being activated, the vessel capsized at around 01:30 on 14 June 2023. The Greek authorities claim that the passengers refused their help in order to be able to continue their journey. This version contrasts with the distress calls received by the NGO Alarm Phone.

1. Did Frontex ask the Greek authorities to intervene, not to allow the boat to continue sailing?
2. Does the Commission consider that the Greek authorities' decision to allow the vessel to continue sailing is in accordance with European and international law?
3. Does the Commission consider that the Greek sea rescue service, and the cooperation with Frontex, is effective and serves to save lives or should it be reviewed and supplemented by a European search and rescue operation?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

Submitted:28.6.2023

---

<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors:Rosa D'Amato(Verts/ALE)