

**Question for written answer E-000976/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Isabel Santos (S&D)**

Subject: Migrants in the English Channel

Following an investigation by The Observer, Lighthouse Reports, Le Monde and Der Spiegel, videos have been released showing French security forces trying to destabilise small boats carrying migrants in the English Channel in an attempt to stop them reaching the UK coast.

It is clear that French authorities are using aggressive tactics: circling boats causing waves to flood them, ramming into boats while threatening migrants with pepper spray and puncturing boats when they are already at sea, forcing people to swim back to shore.

Although the French authorities have previously refused the UK's requests – and money – to intercept boats at sea, evidence shows that such practices are on the rise.

Given that these 'pushback' actions are relatively common:

1. What measures are being taken to investigate the events that have come to light?
2. What does the Commission intend to do with regard to the French authorities to stop the loss of human lives in such circumstances and enforce international law?

Submitted: 2.4.2024