ENE-001667/2021Answer given by Ms Johanssonon behalf of the European Commission
(30.6.2021)

The Greek authorities have the responsibility to investigate any consistent and credible reports of push-backs and mistreatment, and to follow up appropriately. The Commission is in dialogue with the Greek authorities, including on the need to reinforce the transparency of border operations by establishing a reliable and independent monitoring mechanism. The Commission takes note of the findings of the Greek Ombudsman interim report[[1]](#footnote-1) and expects the Greek authorities to take relevant action.

To safeguard the right to asylum, the Commission oversees the transposition and implementation of the EU asylum acquis and reiterates that Member States must act in full compliance with relevant international and EU law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights. With the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission proposed to strengthen the monitoring of the respect for fundamental rights, particularly in the context of screening at the external borders.

Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 makes it clear that the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) must ensure respect of fundamental rights in all its operational activities. The inquiry of the Management Board of Frontex has revealed shortcomings in relation to reporting on serious incidents and their follow up. The Commission expects Frontex to implement all the measures set out in the conclusions adopted by the Board[[2]](#footnote-2).

The Commission reviews all relevant information at its disposal, including reports coming from civil society and international organisations and engages with the Greek authorities who are responsible to put in place the requisite internal and external control mechanisms and effectively investigate alleged pushbacks.

1. <https://www.synigoros.gr/?i=human-rights.en.recentinterventions.791674> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/management-board-updates/conclusions-of-the-management-board-s-meeting-on-5-march-2021-on-the-report-of-its-working-group-on-fundamental-rights-and-legal-operational-aspects-of-operations-in-the-aegean-sea-aFewSI> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)