

**Question for written answer E-014545/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy (S&D)

Subject: Refugees allegedly repelled by Greek coastguard

In recent months, numerous allegations have been made to the effect that refugees are being repelled in the Turkish waters of the Aegean and at the land border between Greece and Turkey and that small vessels carrying men, women and children are being deliberately sunk by armed and masked assailants with Greek coastguard insignia. In the Evros region, Greek border guards are reportedly organizing the mass expulsion of migrants and asylum seekers into Turkey, accompanied by acts of intimidation and violence. The Greek coastguard however has denied responsibility, claiming that the acts are being committed by criminals masquerading as members of this body.

Whether or not the culprits are really coastguards, it is still the responsibility of the Greek authorities to investigate the allegations thoroughly and punish those responsible. If the allegations proved to be true and no action was taken, it would constitute a serious violation of the principle of non-refoulement and the right of asylum enshrined in international law and the European treaties.

In view of this:

1. Is Commission aware of these very serious allegations?
2. What powers does the Commission have to seek action by the Greek authorities to remedy matters?