

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001065/19
to the Commission
Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)
(27 February 2019)

Subject: Provision of equipment, training and financial support to the Libyan coastguard

Since 2017, the European Union has made EUR 286 million available for migration-related projects in Libya, mostly through the Trust Fund for Africa, although EUR 20 million in bilateral aid has also been provided.

Both types of assistance have been used to fund the provision of equipment, training and financial support to the Libyan coastguard.

1. Precisely how much financial support has been made available to the Libyan coastguard, and how does that support break down?
2. What equipment has been made available to the Libyan coastguard?
3. What precise form has the training taken?

Answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the European Commission
(7 June 2019)

The EU supports the Italian Ministry of Interior in helping the Libyan authorities to strengthen their capacity in the areas of border and migration management, to prevent migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings, and to conduct search and rescue at sea and in the desert.

The EU has provided support of EUR 46 million to activities of the Italian Ministry of Interior through a programme under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), North of Africa Window. The bulk of the programme's budget, EUR 31 million, is allocated to strengthen the capacities of the General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS), operating under the Libyan Ministry of Interior (while the rest of the budget is foreseen for land border management activities in the South of Libya). With the financial assistance of the EU, existing two patrol boats have been refurbished but are not yet in use, while other ships still need refurbishment. So far, the Italian Ministry of Interior, the implementing partner, has provided technical and practical training to crewmembers and scuba divers. Later this year human rights training will be provided to the Libyan Coast Guards and Port Security (LCGPS) and GACS under the component Search and Rescue (SAR). The EU funding in Libya under the EUTF does not support the Libyan Coast Guards with equipment in the first phase.

In 2018, the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa further expanded its support to border and migration management in Libya with an additional EUR 45 million programme, yet to be implemented. Currently, EUR 31 million out of the total amount is under negotiation to support the Italian Ministry of Interior. The aim of the second phase is to strengthen the capacity of the LCGPS working under the Libyan Ministry of Defence, to establish a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, organise maintenance facilities and purchase new patrol vessels specifically for SAR operations. Separate components under this programme aim to build up the institutional capacity for training and border management measures in Southern Libya.
