

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001382/19**  
**to the Commission**  
**Dominique Martin (ENF)**  
(18 March 2019)

**Subject:** Médecins sans frontières paying its Australian communications director an annual salary of AUD 140 000

Médecins sans frontières (MSF) is an organisation working in the area of public health. What many people don't know is that it declared to the Commission an annual budget of EUR 1.5 billion. <sup>(1)</sup>

It is beyond belief that MSF used Aquarius, its boat-taxi, to transport 77 642 illegal immigrants from Africa to Europe until the Italian Government of Mr Salvini intervened in December 2018. <sup>(2)</sup>

It is unacceptable that people working for the organisation used the services of prostitutes in the place where they were carrying out humanitarian work in Africa. <sup>(3)</sup> It is also disgraceful that MSF is paying its Australian communications director an annual salary of 140 000 dollars <sup>(4)</sup>, excluding bonuses. <sup>(5)</sup>

Curiously, MSF declares having received EUR 5 million from the Commission and EUR 27 million from other public sources in 2016. <sup>(6)</sup>

How many of the 77 642 immigrants brought over by MSF are now unemployed in Europe?

Exactly how much money did the Commission send MSF in 2016, 2017 and 2018?

Will the Commission continue to fund the organisation in 2019, in light of these horrifying scandals?

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

1. The Commission has no information available on how many of the reportedly 77 642 immigrants brought over by Médecins sans frontières (MSF) are now unemployed in Europe.
2. The Commission supported 20 humanitarian aid projects managed by five MSF organisations (Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland) in different countries (amongst which South Sudan and the Central African Republic), for a total amount of EUR 7,603,104.67 in 2016 and EUR 1,002,934.25 in 2017. The agreements related to these projects were all signed before 2017. Since 2018, MSF has not submitted any project for funding for humanitarian aid activities under the EU budget.
3. The Commission has not planned any funding for MSF in 2019.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=928308827208-10>

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/msf-rescue-boat-aquarius-mediterranean-sea-migrants-refugees-italy-salvini-libya-a8671571.html> ;  
<http://searchandrescue.msf.org/>

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://www.lalibre.be/actu/international/apres-oxfam-l-ong-medecins-sans-frontieres-plongee-dans-un-scandale-sexuel-5b2b951b5532a2968895b44d>

<sup>(4)</sup> 140 000 Australian dollars, which is the equivalent of about EUR 90 000 per year, or 7200 per month.

<sup>(5)</sup> <https://www.seek.com.au/job/3845117?searchrequesttoken=127f7830-2ac8-4128-8748-6113b3c44b0b&type=standard>

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=928308827208-10>