

**Question for written answer E-006361/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Elena Valenciano Martínez-Orozco (S&D)**

Subject: Illegal immigration, development cooperation and human rights at the southern borders of the EU

In recent months there have been a number of humanitarian tragedies in which hundreds of illegal immigrants from Africa have died along the Mediterranean coasts of southern Europe. They are desperately fleeing and risking their lives to escape hunger, poverty, war, drought or disease.

The EU has not reacted in time or with the forcefulness needed to address this humanitarian tragedy.

According to UNDP, 48.5% of sub-Saharan Africans live in poverty and there is considered to be a clear link between development and migration. In recent years, Member States have significantly reduced their official development aid, while the EU 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework has earmarked EUR 58 000 million for development cooperation – 0.42% of its budget, far from the target set by the Millennium Development Goals for 2015.

What measures has the Commission taken to prevent further humanitarian tragedies along the southern borders of the EU?

When will the Commission implement a genuine common immigration policy which, while ensuring border control, prioritises the human rights of people trying to reach Europe in search of a better future?