

**Question for written answer E-006906/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Lorenzo Fontana (NI)**

Subject: Observations by Frontex Executive Director

On Thursday 4 September 2014, Gil Arias-Fernández, the Frontex Executive Director, made a number of observations to the LIBE Committee in connection with Frontex activities in the Mediterranean, indicating that, since the Mare Nostrum operation had started, the volume of migrants had swelled drastically, greatly increasing the number of those arriving on EU shores.

The facts, as set out by Mr Arias-Fernández, speak for themselves. A further increase in the number of arrivals as a direct result of the operation appears inevitable, not to say intentional.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission indicate whether Italy's Mare Nostrum operation was originally intended to produce such a result?
2. If not, what steps will it take to ensure a radical change of direction in the conduct thereof?