

**Question for written answer E-000093/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Phantom cargoes and the survival of hundreds of migrants

In recent weeks, several 'phantom ships' carrying hundreds of migrants have been intercepted in the Mediterranean.

This is a particularly dangerous form of trafficking used by unscrupulous people smugglers, who are in fact playing with the lives of thousands of men, women and children.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the measures against human traffickers - in particular those engaged in these new practices - and ensure that people transported en masse on such vessels are welcomed in a manner respectful of their human dignity?

To gain effective control over the new phenomenon of phantom cargoes, affecting the entire Mediterranean, it will be necessary to expand the present surveillance and rescue resources.

2. What action could the Commission take to increase the material and human resources deployed and ensure that all Member States contribute to the effort to implement a humanitarian policy in the Mediterranean?