

**Question for written answer E-003618/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: Rescue of migrants in the Mediterranean Sea

The growing number of people from North Africa and Syria who are desperate enough to risk their lives and the lives of their children for a chance to reach a safe haven is rising rapidly. According to the International Organisation for Migration, the deaths last week bring the number of migrants who have died in the Mediterranean Sea this year to at least 415, compared with 27 at the same time last year.

At the start of this year Italy's Mare Nostrum marine rescue programme, which had saved more than 100 000 lives, was replaced by the much smaller and insufficient European Triton border-patrol programme.

We cannot allow this tragedy on our southern shores to continue without taking any kind of effective action.

Is the Commission planning to finance a mission with the same characteristics as Mare Nostrum, one that is actually able to save the lives of these people?