

**Question for written answer E-003910/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Statements from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on yet another tragedy in the Mediterranean

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees recently accused the EU of insufficient action to prevent disasters like the one that claimed the lives of over three hundred people in the Mediterranean Sea last February. The High Commissioner stated that ‘the priority must be to save lives’, and criticised the lack of a real search and rescue operation, which was robust and endowed with sufficient resources. Instead, what the EU has is a border patrol operation as part of FRONTEX (Operation Triton).

There is therefore a growing chorus of voices criticising EU actions, and the inhumanity of its policies and guidelines in this area is becoming increasingly evident.

In the light of these criticisms, we would like to ask the Council:

1. What is its assessment of these further statements?
2. Is it planning new measures in the face of this further tragedy in the Mediterranean? In particular, is it willing to replace the border patrol option and the repressive vision it embodied for a real search and rescue option in the Mediterranean, endowed with sufficient means and resources to prevent new tragedies in future?
3. Does it endorse the view reportedly expressed by the United Kingdom that ‘more rescue operations would encourage more migrants to come to Europe’?