

**Question for written answer E-003947/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Measures to deal with the growing number of children on makeshift vessels in the Mediterranean

The increase over the past year in the activities of people-trafficking mafias operating in the Mediterranean is an issue of particular concern, above all because there are more and more children boarding these craft to undertake an extremely dangerous journey in terrible conditions.

The Commission has recently approved measures to increase its assistance to Italy and offer help in tackling the influx of migrant children, but further action is needed to deal with the problem at source. The EU should commit itself to this task too.

What measures is the Commission adopting to combat poverty, conflict and persecution in the countries of origin of many of the children who cross the Mediterranean illegally in search of a better life in Europe?