

**Question for written answer E-004172/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Financial compensation for tourist areas hit by the immigration crisis in the Mediterranean

On 19 February, the European Commission announced that Frontex was extending Joint Operation Triton until at least the end of 2015, despite its shortcomings by comparison with Mare Nostrum (see, for example, the tragedy of 11 February in which more than 330 people lost their lives).

This decision highlights the seriousness of the ongoing situation affecting some parts of Italy, particularly Sicily and the neighbouring islands.

Also, according to recent local reports and complaints from operators in the hospitality industry, the Pelagian Islands have suffered a 20 % drop in tourist numbers, leading to an unprecedented crisis in the local economy.

What financial compensation measures is the Commission planning to introduce to support all the tourist areas on the Union's borders that are experiencing huge migration flows caused by the current humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean?