

**Question for written answer E-006273/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Jean-Luc Mélenchon (GUE/NGL)

Subject: What is the point of Operation Triton?

On Sunday, 700 migrants died in the Mediterranean. This latest tragedy brings the number of deaths recorded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Mediterranean since the start of the year to over 1 600, compared to 47 in the same period in 2014.

What does the Commission intend to do to bring an end to this human tragedy on Europe's doorstep?

In November 2014, Europe set up Operation Triton to be responsible for monitoring the Mediterranean's external borders via the Frontex agency, with a monthly budget of EUR 3 million. Prior to Operation Triton, it was Italy on its own that was carrying out this monitoring under its Mare Nostrum operation, at a monthly cost of EUR 9.3 million.

Does the Commission at least plan to increase the budget of Operation Triton?