

Question for written answer E-008252/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Pablo Iglesias (GUE/NGL) and Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Mandate for the High Representative

Over 1 500 migrants have died in 2015 while trying to cross the Mediterranean, fleeing from poverty and war and in search of a better life in Europe. This week has been marked in the Mediterranean by the tragedy in which 700 people lost their lives, turning the Mediterranean into a graveyard. In response to this tragedy, the Commission and the European Council have announced that they will triple the budget for Operation Triton's surveillance mission. But Operation Triton's patrols are restricted to a distance of 30 nautical miles and so do not have the operational range needed to rescue successfully those shipwrecked between Libya and Italy.

According to press reports, the Council gave the High Representative a mandate to examine the possibility of preparing an operation. What form would such an operation take? Has a date already been set for it to start?