

**Question for written answer E-008254/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Asylum

In 2015 over 1 500 migrants have died trying to cross the Mediterranean while fleeing from poverty and war and seeking a better life in Europe. This week was marked by the tragedy in the Mediterranean in which 700 people have lost their lives, turning the Mediterranean into a cemetery. In response to this tragedy, the Commission and the European Council announced their intention to triple the budget for the Operation Triton surveillance mission. But Triton missions are not allowed to operate beyond a distance of 30 nautical miles and therefore they do not have the necessary range to successfully rescue people shipwrecked between Libya and Italy.

Furthermore, this does not resolve the crucial problem of asylum, regarding which the European Union could do a great deal more.

Does the Commission not think that the European Union should receive a greater number of refugees, as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has repeatedly requested?