

Question for written answer E-007201/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (EFDD)

Subject: Operation Sophia

In order to disrupt human smuggling and trafficking networks in the Southern Central Mediterranean and to prevent the further loss of life at sea, the EU launched the European Union Naval Force Mediterranean Operation Sophia.

A cross-party UK House of Lords European Union Committee report has stated that such a large search and rescue operation 'would act as a magnet to migrants and ease the task of smugglers, who would only need their vessels to reach the high seas'.

1. How many non-EU citizens have been rescued by the EU's Operation Sophia?
2. How many of these rescued non-EU citizens have been brought back to their country of origin, and to which Member States have the remainder been brought?
3. Of the rescued non-EU citizens brought to a Member State, how many have applied for asylum in the Member State to which they have been brought?