

Question for written answer E-007797/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Cooperation with Egypt to combat illegal migration

The EU-Turkey migration agreement concluded on 18 March 2016 made for a significant reduction in the number of migrants leaving Turkey to travel via the Balkans. However, the tragic shipwreck off the Egyptian north coast on 21 September, in which more than 200 migrants died, showed that other routes, such as the central Mediterranean, are starting to be used more frequently once again.

We are seeing more people leaving from other countries such as Libya and Egypt. Libya is a principal starting point for migrants, and as a result the country received EUR 42.7 million between 2011 and 2014 to fund migration-related projects. The same cannot be said for Egypt, however. And yet, in June 2016, the director of Frontex, Fabrice Leggeri, warned Member States that a new route was being established, with Egypt as a starting point.

In the light of the foregoing, is the Commission intending to take action to step up cooperation with Egypt with a view to combatting illegal migration?