

**Question for written answer E-009541/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Beatrix von Storch (EFDD)

Subject: Operation Sophia

With regard to my Written Question on Operation Sophia, E-007201/16, submitted on 28 September 2016, the Commission's reply, received on 2 December 2016, to question 1 states: 'Until mid-October 2016, EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA has rescued 27 148 non-EU citizens'.

On 10 November 2016 the Commission issued a press release entitled 'International ocean governance'. It states that '...EUNAVFOR Med Operation Sophia is working towards disrupting smugglers and traffickers' networks and has saved more than 28 000 lives up to date in the Southern Central Mediterranean'.

1. Why does the Commission's reply to question 1, which it took 51 days to process, contain information more outdated than that in its own press release, which was issued 22 days before I received a reply?
2. The second part of question 2 was not answered. I therefore ask once again, to which Member States have the rescued non-EU citizens been transferred and, more specifically, how many to each Member State?
3. The Commission avoided answering question 3. Regardless of whether or not it is a task, could the Commission please provide an explicit yes or no answer as to whether or not it has returned people to their country of origin under Operation Sophia?