

**Question for written answer E-009634/2016
to the Council**
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Frontex: NGOs complicit with traffickers?

The *Financial Times* recently revealed certain concerns expressed by Frontex. In confidential reports that the newspaper had seen, the European agency accuses certain non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the Mediterranean of collaborating with traffickers of illegal immigrants to whom they apparently give clear indications, before their boats set sail, of which direction to follow in order to reach NGO vessels.

Not only do the NGOs in question appear to be complicit with criminal networks, they allegedly also encourage 'rescued' immigrants not to cooperate with the authorities once they disembark. This confirms the investigation led by Gefira (Global Analysis from the European Perspective) that accuses the following NGOs: MOAS, Jugend Rettet, Stichting Bootvluchting, Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children, Proactiva Open Arms, Sea-Watch.org, Sea-Eye and Life Boat.

Regardless of the intentions of these NGOs, by letting tens of thousands of illegal immigrants enter their territory each month, they are infringing the law and effectively encouraging the destabilisation of European countries.

Is the Council aware of these facts? If so, why has no penalty, starting with the withdrawal of all European grants, been implemented to prevent NGOs from operating illegally in the Mediterranean Sea with the complicity of certain police and maritime authorities?