

**Question for written answer E-001875/2017
to the Council**
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Measures to curb migratory flows in the Mediterranean

In a report obtained by the German newspaper *Bild*, the German intelligence services estimate that there are 6 million people gathered around the Mediterranean intending to settle in Europe. Frontex estimates that 180 000 migrants have tried to reach Europe from the Libyan coast. Although illegal crossings at the external borders of the European Union are down by 70% compared to the last two years, arrivals via the Mediterranean are on the rise. The International Organization for Migration recorded the deaths of 5 098 migrants in the Mediterranean in 2016, a 35% increase compared to 2015. These figures demonstrate the ineffectiveness of current policies aimed at combating smuggling networks. On the one hand, under international and European rules, coastguard services are charged mainly with spotting illegal boats, rescuing people and then disembarking them in Europe; on the other hand, the authorities are confronted with the actions of NGOs, as Frontex indicated last month.

Does the Council intend finally to take effective measures to combat illegal migration in the Mediterranean, especially as the flows are likely to intensify?