

Question for written answer E-002278/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: NGOs are supporting people-smugglers in the Mediterranean

The EU border agency Frontex recently notified us of the fact that various NGOs (Doctors Without Borders was specifically named) are supporting the work of people smugglers in the Mediterranean by patrolling their ships just a few hundred metres from the coast. People smugglers would cast off their boats just as soon as one of these ships was in view; as soon as they were launched, the ships would collect the 'refugees'. There is no maritime distress in such cases.

1. Up until now, the practice has been for persons rescued from maritime distress to be shipped to a European harbour and given the opportunity to apply for asylum there. How does this practice relate to the aforementioned persons, who were objectively never in maritime distress?
2. What possible interventions does the European Union see for putting a stop to the 'ferry service' provided by NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders?
3. Does the EU know that these 'ferry services' are, to a large extent, financed by the Open Society Foundation? What financial support does Doctors Without Borders get from the EU.