Question for written answer E-004746/2017 to the Council Rule 130 Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Migrants' conditions of detention in Libya

The NGO Médecins sans Frontières has sounded the alarm in Libya about appalling living conditions in detention centres for migrants and shocking treatment being meted out to them. Migrants in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi are being kept in what borders on slavery. They are held prisoner and in order to be released they have to pay. At that point, they turn to their families, thus plunging them into unsustainable debt, and the migrants, in the meantime, are hired out by their guards as unpaid farm labourers or, in the case of women, are forced to provide sexual services in the hope of being freed.

Médecins sans Frontières has also denounced filthy, insanitary conditions in the camps and food shortages there. There is an ongoing battle against scabies, malnutrition and a range of other health problems linked to the conditions in which the migrants are held.

What steps does the Council intend to take, particularly vis-à-vis the Libyan authorities, to combat these unacceptable practices?

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