

**Question for written answer E-005019/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: EU support for Libya

The Council of Ministers, which met on 17 July 2017, underlined the importance of supporting EUNAVFOR MED Sophia, an EU navy operation which seeks to disrupt the business model used by human smugglers and traffickers in the southern central Mediterranean. The operation has two support functions: training the Libyan coastguards and navy and contributing to the implementation of the UN arms embargo.

The EU has decided to invest millions of euros in training and providing logistical support and equipment to the Libyan navy and coastguards.

The final objective is for the navy and coastguards to receive the training needed to intercept migrants at sea and return them to Libya, where they will be held in detention centres.

1. Does the Commission not think that the objective is an indication that the EU is violating international law, under which everyone has the right to seek asylum and apply for refugee status?
2. Can it state what results the EU's support for Libya is having?