

**Question for written answer E-007284/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL), Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE/NGL) and Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Incident in the central Mediterranean involving Libyan coastguards

On 12 April, the Commission approved the EUR 90 million Trust Fund for Africa 'on protection of migrants and improved migration management in Libya'. One of its objectives is 'reducing the number of crossings and saving lives at sea'. On 6 November, an operation took place in the Mediterranean to rescue 140 people on board a boat 30 miles off the Libyan coast. The coordination between the Italian and French maritime agencies and the vessel *Sea-Watch 2* enabled that vessel to come to the rescue. The Libyan coastguard intervened on the sidelines of this coordinated operation in a reckless and violent manner both with regard to the people who had been shipwrecked and to the crew of *Sea-Watch 2*. As a result of their intervention five people died. In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. What is the real purpose of this Fund: to save the lives of migrants or to prevent their arrival in Europe at all costs?
2. Does it consider that it should be maintained, especially given the commitment of the Libyan authorities as regards the first of the two points and the way they are ignoring the objective of 'saving lives at sea'?
3. Does the Commission intend to impose sanctions on the Libyan authorities for this action?