

**Question for written answer E-007296/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)

Subject: In Libya migrants are being sold into slavery

Humanitarian organisations have long complained that Libya is a 'living hell' for asylum seekers. Hundreds of migrants are being held hostage and subjected daily to inhuman torture (electric shocks and mutilation) and rape by militias to persuade their families to send money. If the family does not have any money, they sell them as slaves. Many others just kill them. The same fate lies in store for the refugees intercepted by the Libyan port authorities, which they hand over to one of the gangs also to be sold as slaves.

Bearing in mind the Malta Agreement (2017), under which the EU provides millions of euros in funding and technical equipment for the 40 militias of Tripoli in order to prevent migration, will the Commission say:

- Since when has it been aware of the atrocities that are taking place in Libya and what immediate measures does it intend to take to put an end to the crimes being committed against refugees in Libya?

- Does it consider that the policy of fully entrusting rescue operations to the Libyan port authorities, behind which groups are operating which are free to intercept boats and force refugees into the brutal Libyan holding centres, has failed? If not, what evidence does it have to support this position?