

**Question for written answer E-005423/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Causal relationship between the level of ODA used for investments and the number of migrant and refugee arrivals in the EU

On 17 October, during the European Think Tanks Group-European Parliament public debate, the VP/HR established a link between European development cooperation and the number of arrivals of irregular migrants and refugees in Europe. Discussing the importance of ODA, the VP/HR said: 'Today across the Central Mediterranean route, arrivals have come down by 85 % compared to last year. It is easy to forget where we were two or three years ago. Don't think that now it's done. You decrease the number of investments you make on the root causes and it's going to stay like this. You invest less, and two years from now, we'll be back to where we were two years ago.' [Own transcript.]

Could the VP/HR please indicate on which evidence she has based her statement that ODA used for investments has a direct causal impact on the number of arrivals of migrants and refugees to the EU?

Might the EU's border and migration management activities, such as the EU-Turkey Action Plan, EUTF projects and programmes like 'Better Migration Management'¹, 'Support to integrated border and migration management in Libya'², provide a more robust explanation for the diminishing number of arrivals of migrants and refugees in the EU?

¹ T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-09

² T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-04