

**Question for written answer E-002507/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Emergency Trust Fund for Africa

The EU aims to tackle the root causes of illegal migration through an Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The Fund is expected to support programmes to provide more employment, food safety and improvements in the health systems. Priority will be given to projects that improve the management of migration in the countries of the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

The European Court of Auditors, however, is critical of the use of development aid funding to reduce migration flows. It has evaluated a number of projects which, up to 2014, were included in the external migration expenditure for the Southern Mediterranean region and the neighbouring countries to the east. These programmes had no discernible impact on migratory flows.

As a result, the Court concluded that the evaluation of such programmes was very difficult, as the statistics on illegal immigration into the EU lacked reliable indicators. Moreover, distributing aid among many small projects does not make it easier to evaluate the overall results. Despite the numerous initiatives, it has not been possible to reach enough people to counter the massive migratory movements¹.

The director of the Migration Policy Institute notes that the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the programmes reviewed by the Court function in a similar way.

- 1) What is the budget of the Emergency Trust Fund?
- 2) What conclusions does the Commission draw from the Court's criticism?
- 3) How does the Commission assess the effectiveness of this fund?

¹ European Court of Auditors, 'Special Report No 9/2016: EU external migration spending in Southern Mediterranean and Eastern Neighbourhood countries until 2014' pp. 7-8, 48-50.