

**Question for written answer E-002523/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Kostas Papadakis (NI)**

Subject: The EU's so-called 'Solidarity Mechanism' for rescue operations

It is nothing less than absurd that the EU and at least 14 of its governments, so far, have announced the establishment of yet another EU mechanism, misleadingly called the 'Solidarity Mechanism' for rescue operations. It is in fact a mechanism for the redistribution of a minimum number of refugees and migrants between Member States, which, according to statements published so far, will focus on expediting the implementation of the EU's barbaric policy, on the pretext of tackling the problem of the huge death toll of refugees and migrants in shipwrecks in the Mediterranean.

The recent shipwreck off the coast of Libya, in which dozens of people have died or are missing, highlights once again in the most tragic manner the criminal nature of the policy conducted by the EU and its Member States towards refugees and migrants. The result is that since the beginning of 2019 alone, according to IOM data, over 700 people have drowned in the Mediterranean.

In view of the above will the Commission say:

How does it view that fact that, while these tragedies and the inhumane conditions of the hotspots, where thousands of migrants and refugees live, trapped on the Greek islands, are the result of the implementation of EU policy towards refugees and migrants, it is perpetuating and reinforcing the mechanisms for implementing this policy in the same reactionary fashion?