

Question for written answer P-007548/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - German navy vessels dispatched to the Mediterranean for the stated purpose of conducting unilateral refugee rescue operations to the south of Crete independently of Frontex

It was reported early in May that two German navy vessels, the frigate Hessen and the combat support ship Berlin, dispatched to the Mediterranean for the stated purpose of conducting refugee rescue operations in the Greek exclusive economic zone to the south of Crete, have now docked at Souda (Crete) in order to refuel.

Dozens of German troops have also been flown to Heraklion and sent on by road to Souda to join the vessels.

Citing a German military source, the above reports indicate that the vessels will be operating independently of Frontex.

In view of this:

1. Does the High Representative approve of the unilateral operations to be conducted by the two German naval vessels independently of Frontex for the stated purpose of rescuing refugee's?
2. Are these operations by the German navy within the Greek EEZ, for the stated purpose of rescuing refugees and preventing illegal migration, in accordance with international law, EU law, in particular provisions relating to the 'Triton' and 'Poseidon' operations, and the European Council decision of 23/04/2015?
3. Has the High Representative discussed the matter with the Greek authorities and, if so, what conclusions were reached?