

**Question for written answer E-014225/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Paramilitary training in Libya by the European Union

Since the death of Muammar Gaddafi in October 2011, Libya has struggled to establish democracy. Tripoli has been the scene of clashes in recent days which have left almost 40 people dead. These incidents are some of the bloodiest to have occurred since the fall of the regime.

The kidnapping and release of Libya's Prime Minister in October 2013, and of its deputy intelligence chief this month, demonstrate the country's weakness in the face of private militias. They have been able to exploit the security vacuum left as a result of Muammar Gaddafi's death and the current weakness shown by the government, which is struggling to assert its authority.

The European Union has tried to support the Libyan people ever since the start of the revolution, in February 2011. Today, this support consists in providing almost EUR 30 million in funding with the primary aim of ensuring reconciliation and respect for human rights, and providing assistance in the field of public administration. However, border control is a key factor in stabilising the country. That is why the EU, through the European External Action Service (EEAS), has laid the foundations for the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya, which will train border guards.

There is substantial evidence to justify calling into question the civilian nature of this border guard training mission. Indeed, it is understood that people with military expertise have been recruited to provide specialist skills.

Therefore, at a time when the country is heading towards civil war, can the Commission clarify the civilian dimension of its operations with respect to the training of Libyan border guards?