

**Question for written answer E-001542/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** VP/HR - Commission plans to cooperate with Libya on migration issues

According to a report of 13 December 2016 by UNSMIL and OHCHR<sup>1</sup>, the breakdown in the justice system in Libya has led to a state of impunity in which armed groups, criminal gangs, traffickers and even public officials are employing highly illegal methods in controlling the flow of migrants and asylum seekers through the country. Migrants are held arbitrarily in detention centres, which are run for the most part by the Department for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM), and are being subjected to torture and other ill treatment by DCIM guards. Detention conditions are degrading and inhuman: migrants are subjected to unlawful imprisonment, torture, killings, sexual exploitation, and other human rights abuses. UNSMIL has received credible information that some members of state institutions and local officials have participated in the trafficking process and in the exploitation of and violence against refugees.

In light of the above, and the UN's view that Libya is not a safe country, what are the Commission's criteria for cooperation with Libya?

Can the outsourcing of search and rescue amount to de facto refoulement?

What is the sustainable basis to consider it appropriate to conclude a partnership with this third country, which still lacks a stable state structure and has not even signed the Geneva Convention on Refugees?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/DetainedAndDehumanised\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/LY/DetainedAndDehumanised_en.pdf)