

Question for written answer E-002772/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Petr Mach (EFDD)

Subject: Frontex II

In my parliamentary question E-007704/2016 of 12 October 2016, I asked the Commission whether the Frontex agency might have exceeded its powers in picking up refugees from waters outside the territorial limits of EU Member States. I asked, in particular, about the legal basis upon which Frontex was acting in this regard. The Commission did not reply until 3 March 2017, when it essentially stated merely that 'Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard has significantly reinforced the mandate of Frontex.' However, the 'rescue operations' were conducted by Frontex before the Regulation even entered into force.

Upon what legal basis did Frontex conduct the 'rescue operations' prior to September 2016? I was under the impression that Union law did not allow Frontex to conduct such 'rescue operations'.

At what distance from the African coast are the 'rescue operations' conducted?