

**Question for written answer E-000878/2020
to the Council**
Rule 138
Harald Vilimsky (ID)

Subject: Relaunching of Operation Sophia in the Mediterranean

Operation Sophia was originally intended to be a means of overseeing the United Nations' arms embargo against Libya; but it created an incentive for use to be made of the cross-Mediterranean migration route.

EU High Representative Borrell has now proposed that the Mediterranean operation be relaunched, possibly further to the east.

1. How can it be ensured that no new migration route is established to the east of the old route?
2. How can it be ensured that the arms embargo is overseen by naval forces without at the same time creating new incentives for people smugglers and illegal migrants?
3. What would be the impact on costs of a change in the area of operations - towards the east in this instance - and would the set-up and running costs for the operation change?