

Question for written answer E-003042/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Karlo Ressler (PPE)

Subject: EU participation in military missions around the world during the COVID-19 pandemic

The chaos caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has re-emphasised the importance and role of the military, police and civil protection institutions in the functioning of the state. The army is one of the hallmarks of a sovereign state and provides assistance and logistical support in times of crisis. Troops are currently being withdrawn from areas of active military conflicts and operations in order to protect them from the spread of COVID-19, but also so that they can be made available to help their home countries.

What role do members of military missions in the field have to play in combating this health crisis?

Due to ongoing military clashes, the World Health Organisation considers Libya a high-risk country for frequent outbreaks of COVID-19 disease, since doctors are focused on treating war-related injuries. Is the pandemic making EUNAVFOR MED SOPHIA operations more difficult, given that a high percentage of smuggled migrants come from Libya, where an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases is expected?