

Question for written answer E-006375/2020
to the Council
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Repeated attacks on, and abductions of, Italian fishermen and their vessels by Libya

According to the Italian UILA fisheries union, there have been over 30 reported cases of Italian fishermen being attacked or abducted by Libyan naval vessels over the last twenty years. These attacks are coming in the wake of a unilateral expansion of Libya's territorial waters from the internationally recognised 12 miles to 74 miles offshore in 2005.

Until now, the chief demand for the release of the fishermen has been ransom, which has usually been paid.

Since September, 18 Italian fishermen have been held in a Libyan detention centre in Benghazi, following the seizure of their two fishing vessels.

1. What steps has the Council taken to ensure the prompt release of the 18 abducted fishermen and their vessels?
2. What steps has it already taken to resolve the border dispute between an EU Member State and Libya, which involves an EU external border?