

Question for written answer E-006633/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)

Subject: Dangerous role played by the EU and its IRINI operation in ramping up tensions in Libya

The reaction of the Turkish Government in seeking to block a recent attempt to carry out an inspection of one of its vessels off the coast of Libya as part of the EU IRINI operation was not unexpected.

In fact, the IRINI operation and accompanying EU interventions have merely been serving to exacerbate tensions in Libya, leading to the operation being called off to all intents and purposes.

France, Italy, Germany and other countries are seeking to control energy reserves in Libya and the surrounding region in the face of opposition from with international rivals such as the USA, Russia and Turkey. The Greek Government has also become more deeply involved in Operation IRINI, contributing a frigate and military personnel and making available the Souda Naval Base, seeking to gain a firmer geostrategic foothold in the south-eastern Mediterranean.

A decade after the imperialist intervention of the US, NATO and the EU, Libya is now embroiled in urban conflict between rival factions. This has resulted in some intense behind-the-scenes haggling, leading to a number of complex accords.

The situation is further complicated by the unacceptable pact between Turkey and Libya seeking to legitimise Turkey's claims, but also to promote a dangerous plan for the pooling of natural resources in the south-eastern Mediterranean, which is currently being monitored by the US, NATO and the EU.

In the light of this:

What view does the Commission take of the fact that Operation IRINI and all other EU activities are further ramping up the tensions that have brought Libya to the brink of partition and once again placed its people in grave peril?