

Question for written answer E-000732/2021/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 138
Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Cooperation between Operation IRINI and the coastguard in Libya

The EUNAVFOR MED IRINI military crisis management operation is unable to undertake the training of Libya's coastguard, as its predecessor SOPHIA did, as it has not been authorised to do so by Libya's Tripoli government. This means that the observation and evaluation mechanisms set up under SOPHIA for the implementation of earlier measures in a manner consistent with human rights are lying idle. Nevertheless, reports suggest that in 2020, Libyan situation centres received information on at least 13 distress at sea incidents discovered in the context of IRINI. Such information might originate from the French or Greek submarines or Italian long-distance drones deployed in the area, for example.

1. How widely are submarines and drones used by Operation IRINI (not directly subordinated but operating as a national contribution), and from which Member States do they originate?
2. How many distress at sea incidents were discovered in the sea rescue area coordinated by Libya by units deployed under Operation IRINI in 2020? Which of the Libyan authorities responsible were informed of the incidents in each case?
3. How much does the Council know about the location and functioning of the Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC), the National Coordination Centre (NCC) and the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Libya?