

**Question for written answer E-000759/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Jean-Paul Garraud** (ID), **Nicolas Bay** (ID)

**Subject:** Evidence of collusion between pro-immigration NGOs and smugglers of illegal immigrants

In her reply to question E-006068/2020, Commissioner Johansson said that the Commission was not aware of any link between migrant smugglers and certain non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Nevertheless, such a link has been widely reported in the press and was more recently borne out by the comments of Italian Rear Admiral Nicola De Felice in an interview with the journal *African Manager*.<sup>1</sup>

The Admiral, who headed the Italian naval command in Sicily from 2015 to 2018, makes a credible witness, as he was heavily involved in the 2015 migration crisis.

He denounced the fact that European NGOs 'cooperate with human traffickers' and testified that as they approach African shores, NGO ships act as pull factors that prompt traffickers to ramp up their activity and send boats full of illegal immigrants.

Furthermore, a number of NGOs even violate international laws, including the Hamburg Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, as they fail to ask the country concerned where in Europe is closest and safest for a rescue boat to dock and drop off migrants picked up off the coast of Africa.

In the light of the above, does the Commission intend to take this important testimony into account and launch an independent investigation into the illegal conduct of certain NGOs?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://africanmanager.com/un-ancien-amiral-italien-demystifie-le-role-des-ong-en-matiere-de-migration-clandestine/>