

**Question for written answer E-001585/2021/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Commission's standpoint on non-governmental organisations willfully breaking the law

On 15 March 2021, a debate on distress at sea was held by the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament in the presence of Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights.

During this debate, the Commissioner for Human Rights made several shocking statements on search and rescue operations and activities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Among others, she stated that 'there may be legitimate reasons, for example, for captains of ships to refuse to comply with instructions' and 'to proceed to a safe port'. Thus, according to the Commissioner for Human Rights, NGO vessels may willfully disregard the instructions and break the laws of Member States to disembark illegal migrants on their territory without their consent.

1. Does Commission share the opinion of the Commissioner for Human Rights? What is the opinion of the Commission on NGO vessels willfully disregarding the instructions and breaking the laws of a Member State, and proceeding to one of its ports without consent?
2. What steps will it propose to stop NGO vessels from endangering human lives while facilitating illegal migration to the EU in cooperation with human smugglers?