

**Question for written answer E-002505/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The lack of efficient handling of shipwrecks and search and rescue on migratory routes in the Mediterranean

In 2020, Josep Borrell, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, denied that Frontex is sharing operational intelligence with the Libyan Coastguard.

However there are official records of such sharing between 2017 and 2019, in the context of 'Eurosur Fusion Service – Multipurpose Aerial Surveillance (MAS)' activities.

Recently, Dunja Mijatović, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, published a report calling out the outsourcing policies which European Member States implement to prevent the work of NGOs, leaving the militias and coastguards of transit countries, such as Libya, to carry out pushbacks.

We ask the Commission:

1. How do Frontex and the state apparatus involved in search and rescue in the Central Mediterranean coordinate their activities in order to prevent tragedies such as last week's shipwreck?
2. Are there plans to take the initiative of suspending registration of the Libyan 'Search and Rescue Zone' at the International Maritime Organization, as it complies neither with international standards nor with individual states' obligations to respect the right to asylum and the law of the sea?
3. Recent statements by the commander of EUNAVFOR MED IRINI – permanently attached to FRONTEX – indicate a close collaborative relationship with the same coastguard that reinstated commander Bija, who is suspected of participation in a criminal organisation. What training operations are currently under way, and what operational relations remain active?