

**Question for written answer E-002680/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Bettina Vollath (S&D)

Subject: Information flow between Frontex and NGOs

An article in the magazine 'Der Spiegel' on 29 April 2021 reported that Frontex emphasised its responsibility to inform all international rescue coordination centres – including the Libyan coastguard, which is recognised as being extremely brutal – about refugee boats on the high seas.

On 16 May 2021, the attention of the Sea-Eye NGO was drawn to a boat in distress because a Frontex aircraft was circling above part of the sea. The NGO ship in the vicinity was not actively informed of the incident. Frontex aircraft are fitted with the necessary technical equipment to report the position of vessels in the vicinity which could help, including the Sea-Eye vessel in this particular case.

Does Frontex also pass the coordinates of craft in distress on to NGOs and commercial vessels in the vicinity?