

**Question for written answer E-004519/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Implementation of the Facilitation Directive and humanitarian assistance.

Domenico Lucano, former mayor of Riace, a town in the southern Calabria region, has been sentenced to more than 13 years in jail for facilitating irregular migration and for 'irregularities' in managing asylum seekers.

During his tenure as mayor, he made Riace famous for its model of welcoming and integrating migrants. The ruling is shocking as it almost doubles the seven years and 11 months requested by the prosecutors. This constitutes another example of the lack of uniformity in the implementation of the Facilitation Directive across EU Member States and the worrying criminalisation of humanitarian assistance.

In light of the above, how does the Commission intend to ensure that Lucano's case and similar cases of prosecution and conviction are not pursued in violation of the spirit of the Facilitation Directive? How will it ensure that the recent Commission guidelines on the implementation of the Facilitation Directive are respected? What action does the Commission take to ensure that private actors can disembark rescued migrants without the risk of prosecution?