

**Question for written answer E-000363/2022/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Training the Libyan coastguard saves lives: increase in EU funding for maritime policing projects

From 2014 to 2020, the European Union allocated almost EUR 700 million to Libya alone under several instruments, including the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF).

Among the various projects is the training of the Libyan Coast Guard, organised under the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) with a view to improving security in Libyan territorial waters by means of good cooperation between the Libyan authorities, the coastguard and the Italian Guardia di Finanza.

Despite the excellent results achieved, from preventing migrants from taking to the sea in unsafe boats, thus saving thousands of lives, to the arrest of dangerous people smugglers, there are still, unfortunately, those who are calling for a reduction in resources for these important projects.

Such demands are dangerous slurs on the honour and professionalism of the police forces striving each day to prevent the illegal trafficking of migrants between the coasts of Africa and Europe.

In the light of this, does the Commission not feel that:

1. training the Libyan Coast Guard in policing and combating human trafficking in the Mediterranean should be a stated priority for Europe, as part of the measures to address irregular migration;
2. the EU funding allocated for monitoring and patrolling the Libyan coast should be implemented?