

**Question for written answer E-003069/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Six refugees found dead at sea in the central Mediterranean

Six refugees, including a teenager and two children aged one and two, were found dead on a migrant boat that arrived in the Sicilian port of Pozzallo. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), they died of thirst, hunger and severe burns. Among the 26 survivors, many are in a serious condition, some with deep skin burns.

More than 1 200 people have died or gone missing this year while trying to reach Europe by crossing the Mediterranean.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering implementing a search and rescue operation in the central Mediterranean to save migrants in difficulty and bring them to a safe harbour?
2. Is the Commission planning to open humanitarian corridors or safe passages from war zones and introduce entry quotas for the management of legal, orderly and safe migration?