

**Question for written answer E-003842/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Modifying IMO guidelines in response to search-and-rescue activities in the
 Mediterranean

In the 'EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean' the Commission proposes that discussions be promoted in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Reference is made to the 'need for a specific framework and guidelines' for vessels carrying out search-and-rescue activities in the Mediterranean. The wording 'particularly in view of developments in the European context' suggests that the legal framework for disembarkation at the nearest safe harbour, the obligations of port and flag states and possible obligations for 'private entities' should be spelled out.

1. In the Commission's view, what framework and what guidelines for which the IMO is responsible need to be modified and to what extent does this specifically concern Resolution MSC.167(78) on the Guidelines for the Treatment of Persons Rescued at Sea?
2. Does the Commission consider it necessary to place greater obligations on the flag states of ships engaged in sea rescue, and does the Commission consider that there are obligations which should be imposed only on private entities but not, for example, on merchant vessels?
3. Who, in the view of the Commission, should participate in the discussions it is promoting, and what steps does it intend to take to involve those entities?

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