

Question for written answer E-003961/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Fair distribution of Mediterranean refugees between Member States

On 25 November 2022, the interior ministers of the EU Member States met in Brussels for a crisis summit¹. The purpose of the meeting was to defuse the dispute over the reception of refugees arriving on boats. After Italy recently refused to allow a refugee ship from the Mediterranean to dock, it was forced to sail to France². Given the disproportionate burden it is being forced to bear, Italy is asking questions of the other Member States' solidarity. The current action plan on this issue is chiefly concerned with improving cooperation between countries of origin and transit and the distribution system.

1. One concern that this crisis brings is that if rescue ships are allowed to sail more easily to the various ports, people-smuggling gangs will more easily be able to engage in human trafficking. How does the Commission intend to avoid such abuses?
2. A common solution is being sought, but Italy is being particularly hard hit. It has been announced that the number of migrants has risen by about 53% compared to the same period last year. How does the Commission plan to share these Mediterranean refugees fairly out among the Member States?

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¹ <https://www.diepresse.com/6219945/innenminister-der-eu-staaten-beraten-ueber-illegale-migration>

² <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/europa/eu-innenminister-fluechtlinge-gipfel-101.html>