

**Question for written answer E-001064/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Dietmar Köster** (S&D)

**Subject:** Incident involving EFCA chartered vessel Lundy Sentinel and possible violation of international maritime law

On 29 August 2022, the Lundy Sentinel, a vessel chartered by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), received three Mayday calls from Seabird 2, a Sea-Watch aircraft, regarding a vessel in distress in its vicinity. After an initial response that it would assist, the Lundy Sentinel altered course and lost contact with Seabird 2. The Lundy Sentinel later declared that it had followed an order from the Maltese Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. Nevertheless, doing so was a direct violation of its duty to rescue any ship in distress, as enshrined in Article 98 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

1. Is the Commission aware of the above-mentioned incident, what kind of follow-up has it undertaken with the EFCA and has an internal investigation been launched?
2. Is it aware of the increasing reports of Member States' maritime rescue coordination centres giving vessels orders to not engage in rescue operations and/or stand by and does it consider such orders to be in line with international and EU law?
3. In the Commission's opinion, when national authorities instruct an EU agency or entity to engage in a violation of international law, should priority be given to the orders of the authorities or to respect for international law?

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