

**Question for written answer E-001513/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: What responses are planned to the critical situation in Tunisia?

In February 2023, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell made a statement on the EU's concerns about the 'social impact' of the 'deterioration of the economic situation' in Tunisia and said that 'the European Union is ready to support any efforts made by Tunisia to undertake urgent structural reforms'¹. However, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) promise of a USD 1.9 billion loan to Tunisia is conditional upon the adoption of austerity measures² that many people consider unsustainable for the Tunisian population, given that the country could default on its debt in 2024³. On 27 March, the Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni reiterated: 'There are many common interests between the EU and Tunisia, for example the management of migratory flows towards Europe [...]. Tunisia will not be left alone'⁴.

1. Are the structural reforms proposed by the Commission the same as those advocated by the IMF?
2. Will this management of migratory flows lead to a more urgent and specific response to the crisis in Tunisia, a country which is currently facing a significant rise in illegal sub-Saharan immigration, as well as irregular migration of its own citizens to Europe⁵?

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/tunisie-d%C3%A9claration-du-haut-repr%C3%A9sentant-josep-borrell-sur-les-d%C3%A9veloppements-dans-le-pays_fr?s=126.

² https://www.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2023/02/16/selon-la-directrice-du-fmi-l-accord-avec-la-tunisie-pourrait-intervenir-dans-les-prochaines-semaines_6162069_3212.html

³ <https://www.jeuneafrique.com/1431216/politique/que-veut-vraiment-faire-l-union-europeenne-en-tunisie/>

⁴ <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/l-europe-dans-le-monde/news/migration-paolo-gentiloni-rappelle-les-interets-communs-entre-lue-et-la-tunisie/>

⁵ <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20220925-en-tunisie-la-migration-devient-un-projet-familial>