

**Question for written answer E-001942/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Payment to Tunisia to prevent refugees arriving in Europe

During the visit to Tunisia by Ms von der Leyen, Ms Meloni and Mr Rutte, the President of the Commission announced a EUR 900 million financial package for the country to implement the reforms required by the International Monetary Fund. The fact that Ms Meloni and Mr Rutte took part in the trip normalises, at institutional level, hate speech and speech against the human rights of migrants and refugees. This was further emphasised by the announcement of a further EUR 100 million for migrant controls, registrations and returns, in other words, funding for Tunisia to police the European Union's borders.

Meanwhile, Kais Saied's regime in Tunisia is becoming more and more authoritarian, with a rise in persecution of political parties, repression of freedom of expression and of the press, and human rights violations.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission explain the link between the financial package and the fact that Tunisia is preventing migrants and refugees from arriving in the European Union?
2. How does it ensure that 'migration control' in Tunisia respects the rights of migrants and refugees?
3. Does it regard Tunisia as a safe country for migrants following the Saied Government's racist attacks on sub-Saharan populations?

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