

**Question for written answer E-001945/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE), **Laura Ferrara** (NI), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Stelios Kouloglou** (The Left), **Pierre Larrourou** (S&D), **Karen Melchior** (Renew), **Monika Vana** (Verts/ALE), **Rasmus Andresen** (Verts/ALE), **Ignazio Corrao** (Verts/ALE), **Saskia Bricmont** (Verts/ALE), **Matjaž Nemec** (S&D), **Isabel Santos** (S&D), **Mick Wallace** (The Left), **Rosa D'Amato** (Verts/ALE), **Michael Bloss** (Verts/ALE), **Dietmar Köster** (S&D), **Tineke Strik** (Verts/ALE), **Domènec Ruiz Devesa** (S&D), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Katrin Langensiepen** (Verts/ALE), **Tiziana Beghin** (NI), **Matthias Ecke** (S&D), **Eugenia Rodríguez Palop** (The Left), **Brando Benifei** (S&D), **Maria Arena** (S&D)

Subject: Is the Commission ready to act after the Crotone cover-up?

Joint research by Lighthouse Reports, El País, Sky News, Le Monde, Süddeutsche Zeitung and Domani¹ reveals that the Italian government lied about its role in the wreck of the Crotone, which killed 94 people, including 35 children, and that Frontex helped cover it up. In its answer to our last question for written answer on the Crotone, the Commission stated that 'Search and rescue (SAR) is a legal obligation for Member States under international law'². The Commission has also pointed out that it does not see any need for an EU-coordinated search and rescue mechanism.

1. Following this chain of disastrous misconduct, how will the Commission act and what consequences will be faced by Italy and Frontex?
2. What has the Commission done at the Frontex Management Board to clarify this misconduct by Frontex?
3. What is Frontex's assessment of the facts uncovered, especially since they are not consistent with the statements made by Executive Director Hans Leijten in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on 23 May 2023³?

Submitted: 14.6.2023

¹ <https://www.lighthousereports.com/investigation/the-crotone-cover-up/>

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-000909-ASW_EN.html

³ <https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/webstreaming/20230523-0900-COMMITTEE-LIBE>