

**Question for written answer E-002045/2023**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Fulvio Martusciello (PPE)**

Subject: Carnage in Greek waters

In the night of 13 to 14 June, a trawler carrying migrants capsized in Greek waters. The vessel, which was sailing to Italy, is believed to have departed from the Tobruk area in eastern Libya. According to witness statements, there were initially between 500 and 700 people on board, 100 of whom were children hidden in the hold. Doctors at Kalamata Hospital estimate that some 600 people lost their lives. The Italian National Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre coordinated the rescue operations with the competent Greek SAR authorities, which managed to arrest some of the people smugglers from the vessel.

This is yet another example of a tragedy involving migrants in Mediterranean waters. It provides important insights into the need to put in place appropriate measures for the protection of lives and the importance of coordination and rescue operations in Europe.

In the light of this, what action does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to take in order to increase cooperation between the European Union and third countries to combat the smuggling of migrants?

Submitted:28.6.2023