

**Question for written answer E-002799/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Memorandum of understanding between the European Union and Tunisia

On 16 July 2023, the Commission announced an agreement on a memorandum of understanding on a strategic and global partnership between the European Union and Tunisia. This agreement has been criticised for its lack of commitment to promote human rights and EU values in a country where human rights violations against sub-Saharan Africans and violent crackdowns on domestic opposition are well documented. Euronews published an article on 17 September 2023 stating that at least 2 000 sub-Saharan Africans had been expelled or forcibly transferred by security forces to desert regions bordering Libya and Algeria. Since the agreement was signed in July, arrivals of migrants and asylum seekers from Tunisia to Italy have soared, putting into question the reliability of the agreement. In addition, Member States and Members of the European Parliament have pointed out the lack of proper consultation and the European Ombudsman has opened an investigation.

1. Could the Commission clarify the legal basis underpinning the agreement?
2. Can the Commission detail the steps taken to reach a consensus among the Member States and properly inform the European Parliament about the agreement?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the Tunisian Government abandoning people in the desert?

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