

**Question for written answer E-002800/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Lethal summer in the Mediterranean

The summer of 2023 was particularly lethal in the central Mediterranean. The Pylos shipwreck of 13 July 2023, which claimed the lives of 400 people, attracts particular attention. During the summer period, a series of shipwrecks occurred on 8 July and on 6, 12 and 14 August in Tunisia, on 10 August off the coast of Libya, and on 3 and 5 August off the coast of the Italian island of Lampedusa. According to the United Nations, 239 people died in July and August. The suffering caused by the shipwrecks has been alleviated by non-governmental organisations, which have rescued 6 134 people in 2023 according to the Civil Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the maritime rescue mechanisms of the Member States in the central Mediterranean, as well as of the countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean?
2. In the light of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 13 July 2023 on the need for Union action on search and rescue in the Mediterranean, does the Commission intend to propose the establishment of a European search and rescue mission?

Submitted: 25.9.2023