

**Question for written answer E-002804/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: German Government allocating funds to support NGOs that help migrants cross the Mediterranean

As of 1 January 2023, Italy has rescued and brought ashore 132 867 migrants¹. In the same year, it is estimated that Italy will spend EUR 3.5 billion on dealing with the migration emergency².

Official sources from the German Federal Foreign Office indicate that the Berlin government will allocate EUR 2 million per year, until 2026, to support NGOs that help migrants cross the Mediterranean. The first funds were released on 18 September 2023 and were allocated to the German NGO SOS Humanity, totalling around EUR 790 000³.

The German Government has also recently announced the suspension of procedures for relocating asylum seekers currently in Italy to Germany⁴.

In light of the above:

1. Can the Commission clarify whether NGOs carrying out search and rescue activities at sea are funded, directly or indirectly, through EU programmes?
2. Can it clarify whether, under the current asylum laws, Germany can refuse to process asylum applications from those who are rescued by these NGOs?

Submitted: 25.9.2023

¹ https://www.interno.gov.it/sites/default/files/2023-09/cruscotto_statistico_giornaliero_22-09-2023.pdf

² [https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/politica/spesa-fuori-controllo-sullaccoglienza-i-35-miliardi-euro-2214302.html#:~:text=delle%20Olimpiadi%20%2726-](https://www.ilgiornale.it/news/politica/spesa-fuori-controllo-sullaccoglienza-i-35-miliardi-euro-2214302.html#:~:text=delle%20Olimpiadi%20%2726-,l%20numeri%20forniscono%20certezze,%3A%20un%27impennata%20quasi%20insostenibile)

³ https://www.ansa.it/nuova_europa/it/notizie/rubriche/politica/2023/09/23/migranti-da-berlino-790mila-euro-a-sos-humanity_18015639-153b-4f07-9384-d40a72db057d.html

⁴ https://www.welt.de/politik/deutschland/plus247432954/Deutschland-stoppt-die-freiwillige-Migrantenaufnahme-aus-Italien.html?source=puerto-reco-2_ABC-V32.5.A_control