

**Question for written answer E-000074/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU 'cooperation' with militia to enable pullbacks to Libya

Following the recent article by Lighthouse Reports¹ revealing coordination between Frontex and the Maltese authorities with the brutal Tareq-Bin-Zeyad-Brigade militia in Libya, very serious concerns have again been raised regarding the EU's relationship with, and financing of, actors in Libya.

The Tareq-Bin-Zeyad-Brigade, which is under the command of the son of warlord Khalifa Haftar, was found liable for war crimes by the United States and is known for its cooperation with the Wagner Group. As stated in the article, the group has been actively carrying out pullbacks of persons in distress at sea to Libya, where migrants face systematic and grave human rights violations. The article provides evidence – operational reports of the Irini mission – that the Commission and Member States knew about the activities of the militia. However, nothing suggests a change in the EU's policy regarding the Central Mediterranean route.

1. On what legal basis can the Commission or Frontex strive to prevent persons from fleeing torture, inhumane or degrading treatment or other forms of human rights violations?
2. Does the Commission consider the Tareq-Bin-Zeyad-Brigade to be part of the Libyan Coast Guard?
3. What kind of investigations are ongoing to examine the scope of EU and Member State activities leading to pullbacks by the militia?

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¹ <https://www.lighthousereports.com/investigation/frontex-and-the-pirate-ship/>.