

Question for written answer E-000628/2024
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: European standardisation of narco boats to tackle drug and human trafficking

In 2018, Spain outlawed the manufacture, sale and navigation in its waters of narco boats, semi-rigid vessels capable of going faster than 110 km/h and transporting up to 3 000 kg that are used by criminal organisations mainly to carry hashish from Morocco to the Strait of Gibraltar and the Andalusian coast¹. Between the law's adoption and 2023, 1 421 boats were seized in Spain, most of which had been manufactured in Portugal, where they continue to be legal².

The vessels make it possible to traffic not only drugs between Morocco and the EU but also people, transporting illegal immigrants from African beaches to the Spanish coast³. Owing to their high speed and design, narco boats put the lives and bodily integrity of law enforcement officers at risk, as shown in the Barbate case, in which two Guardia Civil officers were run over⁴.

In the light of the above:

1. With a view to tackling drug and human trafficking in the Mediterranean, does the Commission intend to standardise the maximum power of engines of boats sold in the EU?
2. What steps can the Commission take to prevent a vehicle type that is banned in one Member State from being manufactured and sold in another?

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¹ <https://www.infobae.com/espana/2023/08/19/asi-son-las-narcolanchas-que-estan-prohibidas-y-traen-hachis-con-motores-que-cuestan-30000-euros/>

² <https://www.huffingtonpost.es/sociedad/esta-zona-fabricas-narcolanchas-espana.html>

³ <https://videos.elmundo.es/v/x8tbnc-graban-a-dos-narcolanchas-transportando-migrantes-desde-marruecos-hasta-almeria>

⁴ <https://elpais.com/espana/2024-02-10/los-guardias-civiles-muertos-en-barbate-iban-en-una-pequena-zodiac-y-los-ataco-una-lancha-de-14-metros.html>