

**Question for written answer E-001037/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left)

Subject: Question regarding Libyan 'coastguard' attack against rescue ship

According to witness statements and news reports¹, on the afternoon of 4 April around 100 migrants and/or refugees were held at gunpoint on the deck of a so-called Libyan 'coastguard' vessel in international waters in the Mediterranean Sea, 95 miles off the coast of Libya. Many of those on board risked their lives by jumping into the sea to escape inhumane treatment.

The Mediterranean Saving Humans rescue ship, which was sailing nearby, managed to rescue 58 people. The audiovisual material² appears to show members of the so-called Libyan 'coastguard' shooting at the rescue ship during the rescue operation, posing a direct threat to the lives of those being rescued as well as to the rescuers. After disembarkation at Pozzallo, Sicily, an order was issued for the temporary seizure of the vessel on the grounds of an alleged violation of Article (f) of Italian Law No 15/2023.

In light of all the relevant reports³ and complaints about crimes against humanity and violations of the fundamental human rights of refugees and migrants by the so-called Libyan 'coastguard', can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it plan to go on supporting the so-called Libyan 'coastguard' through the EU-Libya agreement despite being aware of constant gross human rights violations and of the fact that the 'coastguard' is posing a threat to people's lives and physical integrity?
2. What does it intend to do to protect the lives of those carrying out search and rescue operations in international waters?

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¹ <https://www.in.gr/2024/04/06/world/mesogeios-epithesi-se-diasostiko-skafos-apo-livyki-aktofylaki-se-diethni-ydata/>

² https://www.efsyn.gr/kosmos/afriki/428476_sokaristiko-binteo-apo-ti-stigmi-tis-epithesis-sto-diasostiko-mare-ionio

³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/libya/index>