

**Question for oral answer O-000155/2012
to the Council**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea - who is responsible?

Resolution 1872(2012) entitled 'Lives lost in the Mediterranean Sea: who is responsible?' adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), focuses on the tragedy involving a rubber boat carrying 73 people that left Tripoli on 26 March 2011. Amongst other issues, it gives an account of the role of people-smugglers in organising dangerous boat crossings in the Mediterranean.

In its answer of 6 August 2012 to Parliamentary Question E-006209/2012, the Commission acknowledged that smuggling of migrants is often dangerous and violent, taking place under inhumane travelling conditions. It also noted that although migrant flows and illicit entries across the Mediterranean Sea have significantly decreased, according to the 2011 Organised Crime Threat Assessment by Europol, migrant smuggling by criminal networks still occurs.

As remedies the Commission pointed out the Council's EU legal framework on smuggling which makes smuggling punishable, and the Council's 'EU Action on migratory pressures - a Strategic Response' which includes measures on preventing abuse of legal migration routes.

Further to these instruments what action does the Council intend to take in order to:

- address the events referred to in the PACE resolution; and
- try to prevent them from occurring again?

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Deadline for reply: 27.9.2012