

**Priority question for written answer P-005367/2021
to the Council**
Rule 138
Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Twenty-seven perish off the Calais coast

The EU has been left shocked by the tragedy that occurred off the French coast of Calais that claimed the lives of 27 migrants who were seeking to reach the United Kingdom. According to Gérald Darmanin, French Minister of the Interior, the victims included five women and a small girl. He went on to indicate that four traffickers had been arrested.

This latest increase to the rising death toll in EU waters raises questions about migration policy and cooperation with the UK. In view of this:

1. Does the Council acknowledge that the mounting death rate will continue as long as our EU external borders remain as leaky as a sieve?
2. What specific measures will the Council take to prevent more migrants being drowned following the sinking of their vessels? How will it be possible to find a constructive solution, given that the British did not attend the emergency meeting of European migration officials in Calais on Sunday 28 November 2021, their invitation having been withdrawn by France?
3. In the light of the latest events and the forthcoming Council meeting on 9 December 2021, will the Council resume negotiations with a view to getting a firm grip on migration issues and reforming EU policy in this area?