

**Priority question for written answer P-005519/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Othmar Karas (PPE)

Subject: Inhumane and illegal practices against asylum seekers at the EU's external borders

There has been a recent increase in reports of inhumane and illegal practices directed at refugees and migrants at the EU's external borders, including at locations far from Belarus and Moria. In Croatia, pushbacks have been carried out and asylum seekers have been mistreated¹. In Libya, EU funds have indirectly facilitated the operation of prison-like facilities where refugees and migrants are detained in the most adverse of conditions².

1. How will the Commission involve the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in the future in order to ensure that fundamental rights are respected at the EU's external borders?
2. Apart from the general reviews under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), will the Commission launch a separate, specific investigation into the above-mentioned prison-like facilities in Libya?
3. In addition to appeals to the Libyan Government and indirect support for projects by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), with a view to directly involving the EU, what measures is the Commission taking to put an end to the human rights situation in the prison-like facilities for migrants and refugees in Libya?

¹ Council of Europe (2021): Report to the Croatian Government on the visit to Croatia carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 10 to 14 August 2020, 03/12/2021, <https://rm.coe.int/1680a4c199>

² Urbina, Ian (2021): 'The secretive prisons that keep migrants out of Europe', in: The New Yorker, 28/11/2021, <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2021/12/06/the-secretive-libyan-prisons-that-keep-migrants-out-of-europe>; Recent reports from UN agencies such as UNICEF confirm the inhumane situation in detention centres in Libya; see for example UNICEF (2021): UNICEF Libya Flash Update 2: Migrant raids and detention, 13/10/2021, [https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/13571/file/UNICEF%20Libya%20Flash%20Update%202%20-%20Migrant%20raids%20and%20detention%20\(13%20October%202021\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/13571/file/UNICEF%20Libya%20Flash%20Update%202%20-%20Migrant%20raids%20and%20detention%20(13%20October%202021).pdf).