

**Priority question for written answer P-001465/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Development cooperation, trade preferences and migration crisis with the Comoros

The Comoros have access to EU development cooperation assistance. For example, in partnership with the French Development Agency, the EU is financing a project to connect more than 3 000 households to the drinking water supply network on the island of Anjouan¹.

The islands also qualify for the EU's Everything But Arms trade regime, through which duty- and quota-free access is provided for all products originating from least developed countries except arms and ammunition². In 2021, the country's preferential imports into the EU market ran to EUR 5.8 million.

However, on 24 April 2023, against the backdrop of preparations for the French operation Wuambushu³, under which mass evictions of irregular migrants are being carried out⁴, the Comoros announced that they had refused to allow migrants from Mayotte to disembark on their soil.

Given the Comoros' refusal to cooperate on migration, will the Commission apply negative conditionality measures in development cooperation plans or under the Everything But Arms trade regime?

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/madagascar/european-union-and-comoros_en?s=106

² <https://gsphub.eu/country-info/Comoros>

³ https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2023/04/23/mayotte-l-operation-wuambushu-une-action-imminente-et-contestee-d-expulsion-de-migrants_6170726_3224.html

⁴ 'As announced, the Comoros are preventing vessels from Mayotte from docking. The archipelago's authorities declared on Monday, 24 April 2023 that they had refused to allow migrants from the French department to disembark. The Mayotte Government was about to launch the controversial Wuambushu operation, through which irregular migrants will be evicted en masse and slums flattened.', *Le Monde*, 24 April 2023 (https://www.lemonde.fr/outr-mer/article/2023/04/24/mayotte-les-comores-refusent-l'accostage-de-migrants-avant-l-operation-wuambushu_6170813_1840826.html).