

Priority question for written answer P-002559/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 138
Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Migrants and Memorandum of Understanding with Tunisia: call for the Commission to provide macro-financial assistance

Since the beginning of the year, more than 2 000 people have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean Sea. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed last July and which provides for various strands of cooperation between the European Union and Tunisia, is strategically important for the Mediterranean countries in order to stop criminal trafficking of human beings, by providing Tunisia with economic assistance to improve border control as a humanitarian matter. However, the Commission has not yet disbursed the EUR 100 million included in the Memorandum.

Since 1 January, 74 560 migrants have arrived in Italy, an average of 308 per day, compared to 15 653 in 2022, an increase of 376%. The number stopped by the Tunisian authorities comes to 45 610.

Fighting illegal migration together calls for a continuous increase in efforts by the European institutions.

In light of the above, could the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following questions?

1. When will the funding promised for Search and Rescue operations finally be delivered to Tunisia and why has this not yet been done?
2. Will it extend the agreements made with Tunisia to Algeria as soon as possible, in order to make them work more effectively?

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