

**Priority question for written answer P-002884/2023/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Humanitarian aid operations in accordance with European standards

In European discussions on rescue at sea, some actors are calling for humanitarian aid operations to be carried out in accordance with European standards so that a distinction can be made between them and measures that are not legitimate. That wording is used in the Council, too, and is being linked to 'instrumentalisation of migrants'.

1. What standards for humanitarian aid operations is the Council aware of, and in which conventions are they defined?
2. What, from the Council's point of view, are the identifying characteristics of humanitarian aid operations meeting European standards, and what kind of aid operations, on the other hand, could be considered to instrumentalise migrants or destabilise the Union or a Member State?
3. In the Council's view, which working groups (including with the Commission) should define the key elements of humanitarian aid operations in accordance with European standards (e.g. on rescue at sea)?

Submitted: 2.10.2023