

**Priority question for written answer P-002992/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët** (ID)

**Subject:** What measures does the Commission recommend taking to re-engage in a constructive dialogue with Tunisia in order to curb migratory flows?

On 22 September, the Commission announced that it would rapidly disburse part of the funds allocated to Tunisia under the agreement signed in July<sup>1</sup> in order to stem the flow of migrants into Europe. High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell assured us that this 'operational partnership' was 'in the interest of both sides'<sup>2</sup>. However, on 2 October, President Kais Saied rejected the allocation of EUR 105 million earmarked under this agreement for the Tunisian authorities, as well as for the IOM<sup>3</sup> and the UNHCR<sup>4</sup> services on the ground. His view is that these funds amount to 'charity' and the 'derisory' sum involved is out of step with the original agreement<sup>5</sup>. The Commission President had mentioned mobilising up to EUR 900 million in aid. However, this is partly dependent on a USD 2 billion loan being obtained from the IMF, which is still blocked due to the Tunisian President's reluctance to accept the conditions<sup>6</sup>.

The acceleration of destabilising migratory flows to our Member States is one of the direct consequences of the worsening economic situation in Tunisia. What urgent measures does the Commission recommend taking to break this deadlock?

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<sup>1</sup> 'The contentious EU-Tunisia deal is finally here. But what exactly is in it?' – *Euronews* – 18.7.2023.

<sup>2</sup> Answer to our written question E-001513/2023.

<sup>3</sup> International Organization for Migration.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Refugee Agency.

<sup>5</sup> AFP dispatch, 2 October 2023.

<sup>6</sup> 'Why the IMF refuses to lend to Tunisia' – *Jeune Afrique* – 26.7.2023.