

Question for written answer E-004025/2025

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Provision of EU training to Libyan non-governmental entity deeply involved in both war crimes and crimes against humanity

On 26 September 2025, the EU Ambassador to Libya¹ announced that Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI had provided training to 30 maritime officials from both Tripoli and Benghazi. This marks the first time ever that training has been provided to officers from eastern Libya, which is de facto governed by the Libyan National Army (LNA), a non-state entity, not recognised by the EU or the UN. Moreover, the UN found the LNA to be deeply involved in both war crimes and crimes against humanity. The organisation is connected with the PMC Wagner Group, which is under EU sanctions. Its leader, Khalifa Haftar, has been found liable for war crimes, extrajudicial killings and torture by a US court.

In this context:

1. Which Benghazi-based entities were the final beneficiaries of the training, under what legal basis, agreement or arrangement did this take place, when was this concluded, and can the legal basis, agreement or arrangement be shared with Parliament?
2. Does the EU consider the LNA to be a legitimate government entity, and if not, why was training provided to such entities exercising state duties?
3. How is the training compliant with the EU's obligations under Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union², and consistent with current sanctions against the PMC Wagner Group?

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¹ <https://x.com/nicolaorlando/status/1971606763825729827>.

² The Union's action on the international scene shall be guided by the principles which have inspired its own creation, development and enlargement, and which it seeks to advance in the wider world: democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.