Question for written answer E-002019/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Cecilia Strada (S&D), Birgit Sippel (S&D), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE), Estrella Galán (The Left), Sandro Ruotolo (S&D), Brando Benifei (S&D), Sebastian Everding (The Left), Leoluca Orlando (Verts/ALE), Hanna Gedin (The Left), Estelle Ceulemans (S&D), Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE), Matthias Ecke (S&D), Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE), Annalisa Corrado (S&D), Ilaria Salis (The Left), Saskia Bricmont (Verts/ALE), Alessandra Moretti (S&D), Pernando Barrena Arza (The Left), Georgia Tramacere (S&D), Marco Tarquinio (S&D), Benedetta Scuderi (Verts/ALE), Irene Tinagli (S&D), Martin Günther (The Left), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Stefano Bonaccini (S&D), Udo Bullmann (S&D), Alessandro Zan (S&D), Rima Hassan (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Camilla Laureti (S&D), Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Damien Carême (The Left)

Subject: Another shooting attack by Libyan militias on the humanitarian vessel Sea-Watch 5

On 11 May 2026, a Libyan patrol boat opened fire on the humanitarian vessel Sea-Watch 5, which had just rescued 90 people during an operation in the Mediterranean.

This incident is part of a long series of acts in violation of international law and the law of the sea perpetrated by the Libyan coast guard.

From 2016 to 2025, over 70 incidents of maritime violence were recorded, with increasingly frequent shootings by Libyan patrol boats targeting vessels carrying civilians. Most of these Libyan boats were reportedly provided by Italian authorities under the Italy-Libya Memorandum of Understanding. This agreement also provides for the transfer of equipment and other forms of financial and logistical assistance, including training.

These national schemes are often coordinated with and supplemented by EU funding, totalling around EUR 65 million for border management activities between 2015 and 2021, with an extension planned until 2027.

Considering the UN report published on 17 February 2026, which highlights human rights violations and abuses committed by Libyan authorities and entities, could the Commission clarify:

1. Whether it considers such acts to be contrary to international law?

2. Whether it intends therefore to propose the suspension of the aforementioned funding, by activating, for instance, the internal procedure for handling human rights complaints in relation to EU-funded projects?

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