**Question for written answer E-002324/2026**
**to the Commission**
Rule 144
**Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Fabrice Leggeri (PfE), Matthieu Valet (PfE)**

Subject: New surge in illegal immigration on the Libya-Crete-Gavdos route

On 27 and 28 May 2026, several press releases[1] from the Hellenic Coast Guard reported numerous search and rescue operations south of Crete and the neighbouring island of Gavdos that involved more than 700 migrants.

Several boats reportedly left Tobruk in Libya in return for payment to smuggling networks. The press releases mention Frontex support and disembarkations in Gavdos, Souda, Kaloi Limenes, Agia Galini and Heraklion.

In light of the fact that the Libyan route to Crete and Gavdos is putting increasing pressure on the EU's southern external border:

1. What immediate operational measures does the Commission intend to support, with Frontex and the Greek authorities, to prevent illegal departures from Libya and to dismantle the smuggling networks?

2. Does it intend to make EU funding granted to third countries more conditional on them cooperating effectively with regard to checks and returns?

3. What guarantees can it give to ensure that manifestly unfounded applications are processed swiftly and that removals are carried out effectively?

Submitted: 5.6.2026

[1] Hellenic Coast Guard press releases of 28, 29 and 30 May 2026: https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/synexeia-enhmerwshs-anaforika-me-entopismo-kai-diaswsh-49-allodapwn-sthn-ierapetra-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-40-allodapwn-kai-syllhpsh-toy-allodapoy-diakinhth-toys-stoys-kaloys-limenes-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-36-allodapwn-kai-syllhpsh-toy-allodapoy-diakinht/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/8anatos-loyomenhs-sthn-ikaria-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-103-allodapwn-stoys-kaloys-limenes-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-38-allodapwn-sth-gaydo-diakomidh-as8enoys/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/synexeia-enhmerwshs-anaforika-me-ton-entopismo-kai-diaswsh-38-allodapwn-sth-gaydo-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-130-allodapwn-epibainontwn-se-3-lemboys-notia-ths-gaydoy-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-60-allodapwn-epibainontwn-notioanatolika-twn-kalwn-limenwn-ptwsh/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/synexeia-enhmerwsewn-anaforika-me-ton-entopismo-kai-diaswsh-103-allodapwn-stoys-kaloys-limenes-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-40-allodapwn-sth-gaydo-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-58-allodapwn-stoys-kaloys-limenes/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/entopismos-kai-diaswsh-40-allodapwn-sth-gaydo-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-37-allodapwn-sth-xrysh-krhths-mhxanikh-blabh-if-skafoys-stoys-o8wnoys-diakomides-as8enwn/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/entopismos-kai-diaswsh-36-allodapwn-sth-gaydo-traymatismos-epibainonta-if-skafoys_-sth-lero-prosara3h-ep-tr-skafoys-sthn-kalymno-diakomidh-as8enoys/; https://www.hcg.gr/el/epikairothta/synexeia-enhmerwshs-anaforika-me-ton-entopismo-kai-th-diaswsh-40-allodapwn-notia-ths-gaydoy-synexeia-enhmerwshs-anaforika-me-ton-entopismo-kai-th-diaswsh-60-allodapwn-na-twn-kalwn-limenwn-entopismos-kai-diaswsh-69-allodapwn-notia-ths-gaydoy/.