Question for written answer E-004068/2026/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Elisabeth Dieringer (PfE)

Subject: Sexual violence along migration routes and the effectiveness of EU-funded protection programmes

In a podcast[1] published in early October 2026, the British Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, claimed that almost every woman waiting to make the crossing into the UK from Northern France had probably been raped along her journey. According to surveys by the Mixed Migration Centre, 38 % of women who had transited through Libya had experienced sexual violence during their journeys.

The EU has been funding protection programmes in Libya for years through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and the NDICI – Global Europe instrument. These programmes are explicitly aimed at victims of sexual and gender-based violence and are implemented by international and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). At the same time, the European Court of Auditors found in 2025 that there was no reliable overview of EU funding granted to NGOs.

1. Is the Commission prepared to make the continued funding of these programmes conditional on verifiable proof of their impact and to reallocate funds with no demonstrable protective effect?

2. Does the Commission share the view that the only way to effectively protect women on these routes is to prevent irregular migration along them, and what consequences does this have for the balance between programmes involving NGOs and efforts to combat migrant smuggling networks?

3. Does the Commission intend to commit to producing a public, project-by-project breakdown of all EU funding received by NGOs for migration-related activities in non-EU countries?

Submitted: 7.10.2026

[1] https://jungefreiheit.de/politik/ausland/2026/fast-alle-bootsmigrantinnen-werden-auf-dem-weg-vergewaltigt/.