

**Priority question for written answer P-003341/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU-financed Libyan Coast Guard shoots at civil search-and-rescue ship

On Sunday, 24 August 2025, the civilian search-and-rescue vessel *Ocean Viking* was deliberately and violently attacked in international waters by the Libyan Coast Guard, which fired hundreds of rounds of ammunition at the ship¹. The ship used by the Libyan Coast Guard was reportedly funded through the EU's Support to integrated border and migration management in Libya (SIBMMIL) programme in 2023². At the time of the assault, 87 people seeking international protection who had been rescued from migrant boats, along with the ship's crew, were on board.

Given that the Libyan Coast Guard continues to receive support from the EU as an official search-and-rescue actor – despite repeated international allegations of grave human rights violations³ – I wish to raise the following questions:

1. What serious consequences will the Commission implement in response to this armed attack on EU citizens by EU-financed militias, beyond expressions of concern and empty promises in response to this question?
2. To what extent does the Commission consider itself complicit in such incidents, given that it grants recognition and resources to these militias in order to deter people seeking protection?
3. What would have to occur for the Commission to end all forms of support to the Libyan Coast Guard – including informal arrangements or the provision of funds, vessels and equipment?

Submitted: 1.9.2025

¹ SOS Méditerranée (Bluesky: @SOSMediterranee.de), 'Heute um 15 Uhr wurde die #OceanViking in internationalen Gewässern von der libyschen Küstenwache vorsätzlich und gewaltsam angegriffen, die Hunderte Schüsse auf unser Schiff abfeuerte.', 24 August 2025, <https://bsky.app/profile/sosmediterranee.de/post/3lx63f5gyzs27>.

² Vasques, E. 'EU Commission labels alleged Libyan attack on NGO ship "worrying development"', Euronews website, 26 August 2025, <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2025/08/26/eu-commission-labels-alleged-libyan-attack-on-ngo-ship-worrying-development>.

³ UN, 'Libya: Crimes against humanity committed since 2016 – --rights probe', UN website, 27 March 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/03/1135052>.