

**Priority question for written answer P-003080/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Matthieu Valet (Pfe)

Subject: EU funding granted to NGO Sea-Watch during inquiry into suspected collusion with smuggling networks

On 11 May 2026, the public prosecutor's office in the Italian city of Brindisi opened an inquiry following the publication of images recorded by a Frontex aircraft, which show an operation involving the vessel Sea-Watch 5 off the Libyan coast. According to several media sources¹, these images show an inflatable dinghy transporting migrants being escorted by a boat piloted by masked individuals, before the migrants are transferred to the NGO's vessel. One of the aims of the investigation is to determine whether the circumstances of this operation could demonstrate collusion between the NGO's crew and smuggling networks.

Does the Commission intend to suspend or reexamine the EU funding allocated to an NGO that is the subject of a criminal investigation based on incidents that could be linked to migrant trafficking, pending the findings of the competent authorities?

Submitted: 22.7.2026

¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/sauvetage-ou-collusion-avec-les-passeurs-les-images-inedites-d-un-bateau-de-l-ong-sea-watch-filme-au-contact-d-un-canon-de-migrants-en-mediterranee-20260716>