

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002301/24
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(29 October 2024)**

Subject: Completion of an MRCC in Libya

Since 2017, the Commission has been providing support for the establishment of a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Tripoli, but without success to date. Further funds for a container-based solution have also failed to be fruitful after seven years. However, according to media reports, the MRCC is now about to become operational.

1. How much has the Commission spent since 2017 (including on training) on the development and implementation of an MRCC in Libya, and what information does it now have, after seven years, about the date of its entry into operation?
2. To what extent is its definitive entry into operation dependent on the construction of a surveillance tower, when is this to be built, and who decides on its location?
3. What joint visits to Libya by the Commission and the External Action Service have taken place or will take place in 2024, and to what extent did, or will, these visits relate to the MRCC?

Submitted: 29.10.2024

**Answer given by Ms Suiča on behalf of the European Commission
(12 March 2025)**

The EU-funded Support to Integrated Border and Migration Management in Libya (SIBMMIL) programme aims at improving Libyan authorities' capacity to save lives at sea and in the desert and fight migrants smuggling and trafficking in human beings, while increasing the Libyan authorities' knowledge of international standards and human rights.

The programme covers equipment and training, including on human rights standards, and expertise on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The SIBMMIL budget contributed to the setup of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Libya with approximately EUR 2.2 million.

Notable progress has been made with the MRCC being now partially operational with equipment installed, including a completed communication tower, and a team from the Libyan Coast Guard permanently onsite.

Ten modules for a mobile MRCC were provided by SIBMMIL over the years, including one classroom container, one MRCC container, two office containers, one kitchen, one cold room and four accommodation containers. Italy donated an extra classroom container. The EU continues providing trainings for the Libyan MRCC operators.

In 2024, three EU technical missions to Tripoli focusing on migration have taken place. They addressed the topics of rights-based migration governance, protection, voluntary humanitarian returns and border management with Libyan and international partners in the country.

This also included on site visits with the assessment of progress on the operationalisation of the MRCC.
