

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002804/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Konstantinos Arvanitis (The Left), Nikolas Farantouris (The Left), Elena Kountoura (The Left), Nikos Pappas (The
Left)**

(9 July 2025)

Subject: Need for immediate EU response to the humiliating end of the diplomatic mission to Libya on 8 July 2025

Yesterday's humiliating end to the diplomatic mission to Libya led by Commissioner Brunner and involving ministers from three EU Member States constitutes diplomatic humiliation and an international downgrading of the EU's prestige, with potentially serious implications for EU foreign policy. The focus is on the extremely sensitive area of refugees/migration, in which EU-Libya relations remain tense and troubled due to the operations of actors such as the so-called 'Libyan Coast Guard'. In addition, the European mission was characterised by Benghazi as 'unwanted', while its presence was considered a 'blatant violation', ⁽¹⁾ in an extremely provocative move to instrumentalise the refugee/migration issue.

In view of the above:

1. To what does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy attribute the disastrous failure of the mission?
2. Is the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy considering readjusting the EU's stance and the subsequent measures it will put in place, such as changing the funding and aid regime for Libya?
3. What specific actions has the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy taken to protect against the possibility that first country Member States will be further burdened by the refugee/migration issue, as a result of the diplomatic actions of the EU leadership, as well as the humanitarian crisis that may arise from the entrapment of refugees and migrants in these Member States as a result of the new Migration Pact?

Submitted: 9.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission

(18 September 2025)

As stated in the President's letter before the last European Council ⁽¹⁾, the political and security situation in Libya is extremely critical and political engagement by the EU and Member States is crucial considering the geopolitical consequences of developments in the country for the EU.

The EU's cooperation on migration with Libya is part of a broader engagement in line with the action plan on the Central Mediterranean ⁽²⁾.

To this end, the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration was asked to visit Libya and to meet with authorities in the West and East of the country.

The mission took place in a Team Europe approach, along with the Ministers responsible for migration of Greece, Italy and Malta. The mission was always expected to be difficult, yet necessary, which is why engagement shall continue.

In Tripoli the Commissioner and Ministers held fruitful discussions with the government including the Prime Minister.

The meetings in Benghazi could not take place under the circumstances.

The EU has an interest to cooperate with all key actors in Libya, in a Team Europe approach, to be able to insist on strengthening border management and the fight against migrant smuggling, managing work visas and onward movements to the EU, as well as ensuring protection and voluntary returns from Libya to countries of origin.

The EU is closely working with the Member States most impacted by the increase in irregular departures from Libya, including from eastern Libya towards Crete.

¹ <https://www.ertnews.gr/eidiseis/ellada/politiki/emploki-me-xaftar-sti-veggazi-anepithymiti-i-eyropaiki-antiprosopeia/>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eunews.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Letter_from_President_UvdL_on_Migration_EUCOJne_2025_1_.pdf.

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/eu-action-plan-central-mediterranean_en.

The EU also remains committed to a lasting political solution, anchored in the United Nations-led mediation. We call all actors — domestic, regional and beyond — to support the United Nations initiative as the only credible option to chart the way forward towards a stable and secure Libya.
