

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003343/25
to the Commission**

**Anna Maria Cisint (Pfe), Silvia Sardone (Pfe), Isabella Tovaglieri (Pfe), Susanna Ceccardi (Pfe), Paolo Borchia (Pfe),
Aldo Patriciello (Pfe), Raffaele Stancanelli (Pfe), Roberto Vannacci (Pfe)**

(1 September 2025)

Subject: Role of NGO vessels in facilitating illegal immigration to Italy

In Italy, there is an ongoing stream of landings of illegal immigrants transported by NGO vessels. Some of these organisations intentionally fail to comply with the instructions given by Italy's Ministry of the Interior concerning the port of allocation, and they decide at their discretion where to bring the migrants ashore. This is the case with the NGO *Mediterranea Saving Humans*, which on 21 August decided to bring 10 irregular immigrants ashore at the port of Trapani instead of the port of Genoa. The NGO has also declared that it is aware it is acting in breach of national legislation.

Besides this, the Italian judiciary is conducting investigations to clarify the possible role NGO vessels in the Mediterranean play in criminal activities perpetrated by human traffickers and linked to cases of facilitation of illegal immigration.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission think such actions are compatible with the existing EU legal framework?
2. Furthermore, in light of the recent proposal to amend the directive laying down minimum rules to prevent and combat the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence in the Union (2023/0439 (COD) ⁽¹⁾), does the Commission believe that this type of offence can be properly prosecuted by all Member States?
3. What other steps will it take in order to prevent non-state actors from supporting migration flows towards the EU?

Submitted: 1.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission

(6 November 2025)

Member States are responsible for the coordination of search and rescue activities under international law. Determining a place of safety for a specific disembarkation is the responsibility of the Maritime/Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in charge of the individual rescue operation.

The proposal for a Facilitation Directive ⁽¹⁾ defines criminal offences for the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and stay in the EU. It does not regulate search and rescue operations. It is currently under negotiation by the co-legislators.

Under the umbrella of the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling, the Commission works closely with third countries to counter migrant smuggling globally and reinforce international cooperation along the three strands of prevention of migrant smuggling, response to migrant smuggling and alternatives to irregular migration.

¹ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2023/0755/COM_COM\(2023\)0755_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/docs_autres_institutions/commission_europeenne/com/2023/0755/COM_COM(2023)0755_EN.pdf)
(¹) COM(2023) 755 final.