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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Mediterranean and expects that all countries respect the jurisdiction, sovereignty and sovereign rights of Member States, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the provisions of which reflect customary international law. In this regard, coastal States have sovereignty over their territorial sea, including for adopting laws and regulations related to innocent passage and taking necessary steps to prevent passage which is not innocent.

Such incidents undermine the regional cooperation, which the EU consistently promotes within Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, such as the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, aiming to achieve a level playing field.

While the primary responsibility for the control of fishing activities in Member States' waters fall on their authorities, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) coordinates Member States' fisheries inspection activities in the Mediterranean through a dedicated Joint Deployment Plan, to which the EFCA patrol vessels participate. The Commission also provides technical support to interested Member States through satellite monitoring and other support activities. The involvement of Frontex in such activities would go beyond the Agency's mandate which is linked to the support to Member States in managing their external borders and return.