

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004104/25
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(17 October 2025)**

Subject: EU response to crimes committed by the Libyan Coast Guard

On the topic of the attack on *Ocean Viking* by the so-called Libyan Coast Guard and the EU's response, the Commission writes that Libya has been urged to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with both national and international obligations. The Libyan authorities said that they would be carrying out an investigation. Four weeks later, the so-called Libyan Coast Guard once again attacked a refugee boat, with casualties reported. Shortly afterwards, officials from the eastern Libyan government, to which the crime is attributed, visited Frontex and the Commission.

1. How has Libya responded to the Commission 'urging' it to take steps, and have results been communicated to or requested by the Commission or Frontex?
2. Based on its own research or investigations, and anything announced on the Libyan side, what information does the Commission have on those responsible for attacking a refugee boat in Malta's SAR area on 12 October 2025, which the Alarm Phone initiative published a video of, showing that Tariq ibn Ziyad militia from eastern Libya committed the crime?
3. Did Frontex or the Commission raise this matter with the eastern and western Libyan sides when they visited Warsaw and Brussels a few days later, and what response is now being considered?

Submitted: 17.10.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(23 December 2025)**

In response to the incident involving the *Ocean Viking*, the EU called for investigations by competent national authorities. Any country remains sovereign and responsible for its law enforcement bodies.

The EU does not have investigative powers itself and does not comment on pending investigations. In this case, the Libyan authorities confirmed that an investigation was ongoing. The EU will assess the outcome of this investigation thoroughly to determine any further measures.

The EU considers that it is necessary to continue engaging with the Libyan authorities to improve the humanitarian conditions of migrants and to avoid deaths at sea and in the desert.

Therefore, a technical dialogue with competent authorities for migration, border management, anti-smuggling and anti-trafficking in Libya has been established since 2024.

This is in line with the European Council ⁽¹⁾ call to step up the EU action to prevent irregular departures and loss of life, and the EU Action Plan for the Central Mediterranean ⁽²⁾.

The technical dialogue follows a comprehensive approach aiming at establishing an effective and humane migration governance framework, to combat migrant smuggling and ensure respect of human rights.

During the last meeting of the technical dialogue on 15 October 2025, the EU reiterated its concerns about the reported incident involving the *Ocean Viking* vessel and urged the Libyan authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure Libya's full compliance with national and international obligations in similar situations.

At the same time, the Commission is reinforcing its monitoring and dialogue mechanisms to ensure that human rights standards are upheld in all EU supported activities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-1-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/download/407045d2-beff-40fd-a403-eddb343fb0_en?filename=EU%20Action%20Plan%20for%20the%20Central%20Mediterranean_en.pdf.