

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004332/25
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(4 November 2025)**

Subject: Frontex transmitting incomplete emergency calls in the Mediterranean

Frontex has stationed a surveillance aircraft, 'Eagle 1', on Lampedusa to identify boats carrying refugees on their way to Europe in the Libyan search and rescue (SAR) area. If Frontex classifies a boat as unseaworthy, it forwards an emergency call to all nearby ships on the usual channel, No 16. However, Frontex only provides a description of the boat, its estimated number of occupants and positional data. No mention is made of its direction of travel or speed. This makes it difficult for civilian rescue vessels to find the occupants. Frontex does, however, transmit the missing data to the Libyan coast guard so that the refugees can be brought back there if possible.

1. In which cases does Frontex also transmit the direction of travel and estimated speed of a refugee-carrying boat in distress in the Mediterranean via an emergency call relay in the Libyan SAR area, and in which cases does it not?
2. Is it true that in the same cases, information on a boat's direction of travel and estimated speed is also transmitted to the applicable maritime rescue coordination centres, in this case also Libya?
3. What is Frontex's response to the criticism that its information policy delays rescue operations and thus endangers human lives, and does the agency have any evidence that people have already drowned as a result?

Submitted: 4.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(15 December 2025)**

As the question falls under the responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the Commission has asked the Agency to provide a response to the question raised by the Honourable Member. The Commission will send the Agency's reply to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

See annexes: Annex 1, Annex 2.
