

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000138/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(14 January 2026)**

Subject: Consequences of the Libyan coast guard's opening fire on the Ocean Viking

In response to the Libyan coast guard's opening fire on the Ocean Viking, the EU called for the relevant national authorities to open an inquiry. The Libyan authorities have confirmed to the Commission that an investigation into this incident is under way. The Commission 'will assess the outcome of this investigation thoroughly in order to determine any further measures'. To ensure that human rights standards are upheld in all EU-supported activities, the Commission also states that it is stepping up monitoring and dialogue arrangements for projects in Libya.

1. Which Libyan authorities are responsible for investigating the shooting of the Ocean Viking, and to what extent are they part of the internationally recognised government in Tripoli (west) or within the sphere of influence of the administration in Benghazi (east)?
2. Which Libyan authorities, including ministerial, governmental and regional authorities, has the Commission informed about the investigations, and how is it ensuring that these are conducted transparently and in accordance with international standards?
3. How exactly will the monitoring and dialogue mechanisms announced by the Commission for projects in Libya be strengthened, which institutions or organisations will be tasked with implementing this enhanced monitoring, and what measurable criteria will be used to assess compliance with human rights standards?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)**

According to the information available to the Commission, the reported incident involved members of the Libyan Coast Guard, which operates under the authority of the Libyan Navy.

As a military structure, the investigation falls within the competence of the Military Prosecutor and the Ministry of Defence. These institutions operate under the authority of the internationally recognised Government of National Unity based in Tripoli.

The EU Delegation to Libya maintains regular contacts with Libyan counterparts, primarily through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has also engaged with the Ministry of Defence regarding the incident.

The Libyan authorities have confirmed that an investigation is ongoing in accordance with Libyan law. During the 8th meeting of the EU-Libya Technical Mission on Migration on 3 February 2026, both sides agreed to continue exchanges on strengthening mechanisms for monitoring, investigating and reporting search and rescue (SAR) incidents. The EU also expects Libyan authorities to adopt standard operating procedures for SAR operations developed with EU support.

Monitoring and dialogue mechanisms have been further strengthened for EU-funded projects in Libya through more frequent Technical Missions, reinforced on-the-ground verification and independent evaluations, on top of the already existing monitoring tools.

Dialogue with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, and the Attorney General's Office has been intensified and made more systematic.
