

EN

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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.4.2026)

1. The 15 trainees from Benghazi who attended the course in Taranto last September were officers and petty officers from the Libyan Coast Guard part of the Libyan Navy, which is the sole Libyan military institution operating as a unified entity at operational level, under the umbrella of the Joint Military Committee.
2. The EU engages with authorities throughout the country in line with its ‘one Libya’ policy and in accordance with the UN Security Council, which ‘noted the importance of progress towards the unification of all institutions, including military and security institutions’¹.
3. All reasonable measures to mitigate such risks have been taken. Every candidate is subject to a vetting process which involves an initial screening by Libyan authorities, followed by further checks by Member States, International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) and EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) prior to the start of the training. EU Naval Force Mediterranean Operation Irini (EUNAVFOR MED IRINI) does not train personnel belonging to militias, nor individuals with a proven criminal record or a record of human rights violations.

¹ Press statement on Libya, 3 March 2026 <https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16309.doc.htm>.