

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001987/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(13 May 2026)

Subject: Objectives and participants of the ‘SEAHORSE Atlantic Network’ project

The European Union intends to extend the ‘SEAHORSE Atlantic Network’ project to countries on the West African Atlantic coast, using EUR 3 million from the ‘NDICI-Global Europe’ instrument. As far as is known, these are Mauritania, Senegal and The Gambia. A previous similar project — the ‘SEAHORSE Mediterranean Network’ — aimed to strengthen the Libyan Coast Guard’s capacity for search and rescue, but failed due to a lack of cooperation from North African states. The ‘SEAHORSE Atlantic Network’ project aims at regional maritime cooperation and combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. The signing was planned for the first quarter of 2026.

1. What are the objectives of the ‘SEAHORSE Atlantic Network’ project and how are they to be implemented?
2. When was the ‘SEAHORSE Atlantic Network’ project agreed and set up, which countries are taking part, and which of their authorities are involved?
3. Which other countries are to be integrated in the existing multilateral SEAHORSE network, and under what conditions will information be transmitted to the non-participating European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) or the European Border Surveillance System (Eurosir)?

Submitted: 13.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(31 July 2026)

The upcoming Seahorse Advanced (A) project is part of the Migration and Jobs Package for Western Africa (i.e. Individual measure in favour of Western Africa for 2025 ⁽¹⁾), which seeks to support the vulnerable population of West African countries, by intensifying efforts to improve migration management, addressing the root causes of irregular migration and promoting socioeconomic opportunities.

Within this framework, Seahorse A aims to strengthen national and regional maritime surveillance and coordination to complement efforts in countering irregular migration along the Atlantic route.

To allow for a comprehensive regional response, the action will cover Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Cabo Verde to varying degrees according to specific needs and contexts, and in complementarity with other ongoing projects.

Competent national authorities responsible for maritime surveillance, counter-smuggling/trafficking activities and prevention of irregular migration, will be involved.

There is no ongoing multilateral Seahorse network. Seahorse A is a new project, which will also build on and enhance the results achieved under previous Seahorse initiatives, which have now ended.

Close coordination with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) will be ensured (participation to relevant workshops and trainings, timely reporting and information sharing, notably via the European Border Surveillance system (Eurosir) ⁽²⁾).

⁽¹⁾ Link to Commission Implementing Decision and relevant Action Documents available here: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/sub-saharan-africa_en.

⁽²⁾ https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/eurosir_en.