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Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.10.2026)

The EU-funded programme SIBMMIL¹, co-financed with Italy, supported the strengthening of Libyan capacity to conduct search and rescue operations at sea, in line with applicable international human rights obligations, standards, and international maritime law. Support included the provision, refurbishment and maintenance of search and rescue vessels, capacity-building activities and trainings. In this context, two refurbished Corrubia-class vessels were supplied. The EU has not received investigative evidence confirming the involvement of one of the two vessels in the mentioned incident.

Following the incident involving the *Ocean Viking* in August 2025, the EU Delegation raised the matter with the Libyan authorities and urged them to verify the facts and responsibilities and to take all necessary measures to ensure compliance with national and international obligations. The authorities informed the EU that they were investigating. The EU has continued to raise the need for compliance with international standards in regular meetings with the Libyan authorities and implementing partners. In case of any incident, such as the one raised, this is also addressed in the framework of the regular technical dialogue on migration, ongoing since 2024.

Respect for human rights and international law is a fundamental element of EU external action and of cooperation with Libya. Information from monitoring and dialogue is taken into account when assessing and adapting EU assistance. Where incidents are reported, the Commission raises its concerns with the competent authorities and calls for appropriate follow-up.

¹ 'Support to Integrated Border and Migration Management in Libya', T05-EUTF-NOA-LY/T05.213 and T05-EUTF-NOA-LY/T05.1637.