

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002538/26
to the Commission
Erik Marquardt (Verts/ALE)
(18 June 2026)

Subject: EU project ‘Sharaka’ on sea and land border control in Libya

Together with the International Organisation for Migration and Italy, the EU has been supporting project ‘Sharaka’ in Libya on the control of sea and land borders by local actors since 2026. The project apparently aims to better equip Libyan actors to monitor borders, prevent migration and detect traffickers and smugglers.

Libyan militias — such as General Haftar and his forces — are reportedly involved in the mistreatment, exploitation and killing of refugees, both on land and at sea, and allegations of serious human rights and international law violations are being made against the so-called Libyan Coastguard.

1. Which EU Member States and organisations are involved in the financing and implementation of project ‘Sharaka’, and what costs are being covered by each of them?
2. In which parts of Libya will the measures be implemented and which Libyan actors will be supported by the project?
3. What specific measures will be supported by the project, and to what extent does this also concern the training and equipment of the so-called Libyan Coastguard, under the command of both General Khalifa Haftar in eastern Libya and under the government in Tripoli in western Libya?

Submitted: 18.6.2026

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

The ‘Sharaka’ project is implemented by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Italian Ministry of Interior, fully financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-GE) ⁽¹⁾.

IOM provides technical and operational expertise, including humanitarian border management. Italy provides expertise in maritime search and rescue (SAR), fleet maintenance, and transnational investigations.

The action covers Libya’s maritime border and its southern borders with Algeria, Niger, Chad, Sudan and Egypt, including main smuggling routes.

It supports Libya’s Ministries of Interior, Defence, Health, Local Governance and Labour, the National Safety Authority, and other relevant SAR actors.

It comprises three components: SAR at sea, SAR in the desert, and community stabilisation. The maritime component includes maintenance and equipment, coordination support via the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and training.

The desert component includes border surveillance capacity, multi-sectoral SAR, action against smuggling and trafficking networks, prosecutorial support, a biometric registration feasibility study meeting human rights standards.

The community stabilisation activities aim at strengthened local governance and service delivery mechanisms and include enhancing access to essential services such as health, education or water in underserved and mobility-affected areas.

Support is channelled exclusively through recognised institutions under the Government of National Unity, in line with the UN-led political process, and is subject to human rights safeguards and monitoring.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>).