

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003428/25
to the Commission
Mélissa Camara (Verts/ALE)
(4 September 2025)**

Subject: Attack on a humanitarian vessel by the Libyan coast guard

On 24 August 2025, the *Ocean Viking*, a vessel operated by SOS Mediterranean that was helping 87 migrants in distress, came under fire from the Libyan coast guard while in international waters. According to the NGO, the boat used by the Libyan coast guard had been provided by Italy under the EU's 'Support to integrated border and migration management in Libya' programme.

For several years, EU funds have been used to assist and train the Libyan authorities in border management. Several reports, from bodies including the European Court of Auditors and human rights organisations, have raised concerns about the monitoring, transparency and efficient use of this funding, and the serious risk of migrants' fundamental rights being violated.

1. Has the Commission carried out an in-depth investigation or specific audit concerning the proper use of EU funds allocated to the Libyan coast guard and related programmes?
2. Does it intend to take any concrete measures — including suspension or reallocation of funding, or even sanctions — against the Libyan authorities following this incident where a humanitarian vessel came under fire?

Submitted: 4.9.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(29 September 2025)**

Respect for international human rights' law — including the principle of non-refoulement and the protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers — remains central to the EU's engagement in Libya.

Cooperation is continuously reviewed, also through a technical dialogue on migration where these issues are raised and discussed with Libyan stakeholders.

In addition to monitoring and evaluation activities conducted regularly by implementing partners, and on top of the European Court of Auditor's Audit on the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, the Commission has carried out two specific results-oriented monitoring missions of the programme supporting, among others, also the Libyan coast guard. One financial audit is ongoing, and two additional evaluations are planned by the end of 2026.

Furthermore, implementing partners provide comprehensive and frequent analyses of operating environments in the country, including the human rights' situation.

On-site verifications and third-party monitoring have complemented these efforts since 2019 providing independent assessments of compliance with the do-no-harm principle.

Regarding the reported incident, the EU Delegation in Tripoli has immediately raised this matter with the Libyan authorities, urging them to take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with both national and international obligations.

The Libyan authorities have confirmed that an investigation has been launched. The Commission will assess the outcome of this investigation thoroughly in order to determine any further measures.
