

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-002390/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(10 June 2026)

Subject: Libyan coastguard's accountability mechanism for search-and-rescue operations

In autumn 2025, following a number of armed attacks attributed to the Libyan coastguard on sea rescue vessels, the EU pushed for an accountability mechanism for search-and-rescue (SAR) operations (Commission reply, EASE request 2025/4471). The EU Ambassador therefore raised the issue with Libyan ministers and stressed the need for timely, professional and transparent communication on SAR operations, as well as robust internal investigation and accountability structures. General Mohamed al Marhani, the head of Libya's Supreme Committee for Migration, also supported setting up a mechanism to log, assess, investigate, report on and communicate SAR incidents. Admiral Reda Issa then later informed the EU Ambassador that a dedicated structure had already been set up for that purpose.

1. What powers, human resources and reporting structures are attached to the dedicated structure mentioned and where is it based — under the eastern or western government in Libya?
2. To what extent is the EU supporting the set-up of this structure financially or operationally, and via which reporting channels are the EU institutions kept in the loop?
3. What findings from which investigations pertaining to which armed attacks on sea rescue vessels have been notified to the EU since this accountability mechanism was supposedly set up, and to what extent are civil society organisations caught up in attacks granted access to these results?

Submitted: 10.6.2026

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

In the framework of the EU's dialogue with the Libyan authorities, discussions have taken place on the accountability mechanism. Its precise mandate, institutional set-up, staffing, reporting lines and operating procedures remain to be defined by the responsible Libyan counterparts and, if considered appropriate, with the support of an implementing partner funded by the EU.

The EU recognises the Tripoli-based Government of National Unity (GNU) and therefore conducts its engagement on these matters with the competent institutions under the GNU, including the Supreme Committee for Migration.

No dedicated EU financial allocation or operational support package has yet been finalised. As with all EU external cooperation actions, the Commission ensures reporting through the applicable institutional and budgetary channels and keeps the relevant EU institutions informed in line with the established rules and procedures.

As the mechanism has not yet been established, no findings have been transmitted to the Commission through it. The Commission continues to call on the Libyan authorities to ensure prompt, thorough and transparent investigations into reported incidents during search and rescue operations and to uphold accountability and full respect for international law, including international maritime law.
