

Question for written answer E-000062/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: EU Ombudsman inquiry regarding the respect for human rights in the context of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding

On 11 October 2024, the EU Ombudsman closed her own-initiative inquiry (OI/2/2024/MHZ) assessing the Commission's respect for human rights in the context of the EU-Tunisia Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹. The Ombudsman raises concern about the nature of the MoU in general and about support for border control initiatives in particular, in light of findings about the ill treatment of migrants by the Tunisian authorities. Moreover, the Ombudsman criticises the absence of a prior human rights impact assessment.

1. Will the Commission establish concrete criteria for the possible suspension of EU-funded migration contracts in Tunisia in the event of human rights violations and create a sound complaints mechanism for the individuals affected, as recommended by the Ombudsman?
2. If not, why does the Commission consider that the Ombudsman's findings do not constitute adequate grounds for doing so?
3. In response to a recent publication by *The Guardian*² on human rights violations in relation to EU migration projects in Tunisia, the Commission stated that it would contract independent monitoring experts to investigate the allegations. In light of Parliament's budgetary prerogatives and the degree of public interest in the MoU, will the Commission commit to proactively sharing the outcome of its investigations with Parliament?

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¹ <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/decision/en/193851>.

² <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/20/europe-has-questions-to-answer-over-migrant-abuse-in-tunisia-say-meps-and-activists>.