

**Question for written answer E-003761/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Search and Rescue (SAR) in the Mediterranean

At least 77 people died in a tragic shipwreck off the Syrian coast on 23 September 2022. On 5 October 2022, 22 people died and dozens are still missing after two boats carrying migrants sank in Greek waters. In 2022, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported 1 522 migrants to have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean. Overall, the IOM says that 24 871 migrants have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean since 2014, but the real number is believed to be even higher.

UN officials note that the number of migrants coming to Europe via the Mediterranean route has decreased over the years to around 120 000 annually. Yet, the Central Mediterranean migration route that takes migrants north from Libya or Tunisia to Europe is still the deadliest known migration route in the world.

1. What will the Commission do to reduce the number of deaths in the Mediterranean Sea?
2. Given that current political shifts have led to EU disengagement from SAR operations, will the Commission introduce an EU-led SAR mission?

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