

**Question for written answer E-014956/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Refusal by Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt to take part in the Seahorse Mediterranean network

The aim of the Seahorse Mediterranean project is to establish a secure communication network whereby the national contact points in the Arab Spring countries can be integrated into EU anti-migration measures in the Mediterranean. The project is led by Spain and follows on from the experiences with the Seahorse Atlantic network, under which Spain was permitted to carry out joint patrols in the territorial waters of Mauritania, Senegal and Cap Verde. In 2009 this cooperation was extended to cover joint land patrols.

1. How will the seven national coordination centres established under the European Border Surveillance system (Eurosir) be prepared in 2015 and 2016 for their participation in the Seahorse Mediterranean network?
2. To the Commission's knowledge, what objections or reasons for refusal did the governments of Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt have to the proposal put forward by the Commission, the European External Action Service and numerous national delegations, concerning participation in the Seahorse Mediterranean network?
3. Has it been mentioned, in discussions with these three governments on participation in the Seahorse Mediterranean network, that this might also permit joint patrols to be carried out at sea or on land, and what form would these take?