

Question for written answer E-015553/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Tokia Saïfi (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA

Pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 2, point (b), point (i) of Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/778 of 18 May 2015 on a EUNAVFOR MED military operation, the EU's ambassadors held a meeting within the Political and Security Committee of the Council on 7 October 2015, at which they agreed to launch the first stage of the second phase of operation SOPHIA and approved the applicable rules of engagement.

With the approval of the United Nations Security Council, expressed in Resolution 2240(2015) of 9 October 2015, the European naval operation will now be able, during the second phase and in accordance with international law, to conduct the boarding, search, seizure and diversion, on the high seas, of vessels suspected of being used for human smuggling or trafficking.

1. The objective of the second phase is to apprehend human smugglers and traffickers and to bring them to justice. The arrest of those ships will take place on the high seas. Can the VP/HR indicate which jurisdiction will be competent to try the human smugglers and traffickers who are apprehended?
2. In view of the latest developments in Libya, can the VP/HR provide some information regarding cooperation with the Libyan coastguard? Can the VP/HR clarify the details of this cooperation and of its operational modalities?