



Council of the
European Union

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LIMITE

PE-QE 140

REPLY TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

From: Working Party on General Affairs
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: DRAFT REPLY TO QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER
E-000945/2017 - Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)
'Provision of training, equipment and support to the Libyan coastguard'

1. Delegations will find attached:
 - the text of the above question for written answer;
 - a draft reply approved by the members of the Working Party on General Affairs by silence procedure.
2. This draft reply is submitted to the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) and to the Council for approval.

**Question for written answer E-000945/2017/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 130

Marina Albiol Guzmán (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Provision of training, equipment and support to the Libyan coastguard

Following the Council conclusions on Libya, adopted on 6 February 2017, a plan for providing training, equipment and support to the Libyan Coastguard and Navy has been revealed.

What equipment will the money be spent on and what is the theoretical and practical content of the training?

Taking into account that three different governments and countless armed groups are controlling different parts of Libya, and that the country has at least seven different coastguard services, how did the Council select the coastguards and officials that will receive EU support? What criteria were applied?

Has it verified a direct chain of command between those coastguards and the Government of National Accord (the only government recognised by the EU)? And has it checked the background of the coastguard services, given that each of them has systematically violated the human rights of migrants?

The Libyan Coastguard (LCG) headquarters is located in the naval base in Tripoli. The LCG is part of the Navy with which it shares logistics, personnel and some basic training. Both the LCG and the Navy belong to the Ministry of Defence. Coastguard activities are institutionally carried out also by the Libyan Maritime Police – which depends on the Ministry of the Interior and operates at sea. Those institutions are supported by the UN-backed Government of National Accord.

In its conclusions of 28 June 2016¹, the European Council reiterated its readiness to support the Government of National Accord, the sole legitimate government in Libya, to restore stability, fight terrorism and tackle migration across the Central Mediterranean. The European Council welcomed the adoption of UNSC Resolution 2292 and the expanded role for Operation Sophia in enforcing the arms embargo on Libya and training the LCG.

In line with the 3 February 2017 Malta Declaration, priority has been given at EU and Member States level to the training, equipment and support to the Libyan Coastguard and the Libyan Maritime Police. On 6 February 2017 the Council concluded that EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia would continue to implement its supporting tasks to train the Libyan Coastguard and Navy and to contribute to the implementation of the UN arms embargo.

¹ EUCO 26/16