Question for written answer E-001700/2021

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: The increase in returns of migrants to Libya since the start of 2021 and the monitoring of returned migrants in Libyan detention centres by the EEAS

The Libyan Coastguard has returned a high number of persons attempting to cross the Mediterranean to Libya in the first couple of months of 2021. 3 400 people were returned in February 2021.This increase remains steady. Migrants are living in very worrying conditions in the detention centres to which they are transferred in Libya, which are increasingly overcrowded. The Al-Mabani detention centre in Tripoli alone received more than 1 000 persons in February. Humanitarian actors operating in this detention centre have flagged severe overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, lack of food and water, ill treatment and violence.

1. How does the European External Action Service (EEAS) monitor what happens to migrants who have been intercepted by the Libyan authorities and placed in detention centres?

2. What actions is the EEAS taking to prevent migrants intercepted at sea from being detained in overcrowded detention centres upon their arrival?

3. Can the EEAS provide information as to whether these persons have been registered in line with international standards, whether they have access to adequate humanitarian assistance in line with do-no-harm principles, and whether their rights are respected and they have access to sufficient information to make a free and informed decision about their future steps?