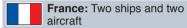
EU takes action to address migrant crisis

European Union leaders have pledged extra ships, planes and a tripling in funds to save lives in the Mediterranean after the deaths at sea of more than 1.300 migrants over the past three weeks

EU PLEDGES

■ Funding: \$9.7 million per month for current EU operation that patrols Mediterranean - increase brings budget in line with Italy's Mare Nostrum mission that rescued 100,000 people last year before it was cancelled due to high cost

Britain: Promising assault ship HMS Bulwark, plus two patrol boats and three helicopters



Germany: Two frigates and supply ship from anti-piracy mission off Horn of Africa

Other assets offered:

Navv ship **Belaium** Ireland Navy ship* Patrol boat, helicopter Latvia Lithuania Helicopter Norway (non-EU) Civilian vessel





EU military action: Could be proposed to strike against boats used by human traffickers - action would likely require UN backing

Illegal migration: More support for African countries to monitor borders and combat trafficking. Establishment of new programme for rapid return of illegal migrants from EU states

Refugees: Plans for pilot project to resettle persons qualifying for protection across EU