

**Question for written answer E-006775/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ban on arms exports

The Israeli army's recent offensive against the Gaza Strip shocked the world with its brutality, bringing back memories of the worst horrors of the Second World War. The bombing lasted 52 days and killed over 2 000 people, the overwhelming majority of them defenceless civilians, including 541 children. The serious injuries suffered by many of the 10 000 wounded mean that these numbers are still rising. Thousands of buildings were destroyed, causing some 450 000 people to be displaced.

Between 2008 and 2013, the EU exported arms to Israel under its defence cooperation agreements to a value of EUR 105 billion, thereby becoming an accomplice to this carnage. At the same time, it should also be remembered that the EU unilaterally suspended its support to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas won the 2006 elections.

Given this situation, can the Commission say whether or not it intends to take action to ban arms exports by EU countries to the State of Israel?