

Question for written answer E-008058/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Warning of Al Shabaab attack in Addis Ababa

There are reports that the US Embassy in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, has warned of an imminent attack against the city by the Somali terrorist group Al Shabaab.

It is speculated that this attack is being planned as an act of retribution against Ethiopia because of its role in the African Union's military coalition against the terrorist group. Whilst Al Shabaab has launched attacks in Nairobi and Uganda, this would be the first of its kind in Ethiopia.

Since the group's retreat from Mogadishu in August 2011, African Union forces have seen Al Shabaab cede control of approximately 70 % of central and southern Somalia. Furthermore, the US strike in September 2014 that killed the group's leader and the recent fall of Barawe, a coastal stronghold, suggest that Al Shabaab is losing its grip on power in Somalia.

1. What assessment has the EEAS made of this attack warning and does it interpret this as a sign of the group's willingness to engage in alternative tactics, with a view to opening up new fronts for attack?
2. It is reported that the US has invested up to USD 500 million to train African Union forces against Al Shabaab. What financial support has the EU and its Member States contributed to the African Union offensive against Al Shabaab?