

Question for written answer E-008059/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - Alleged IS alliance with Pakistani Taliban

According to reports, the Pakistani Taliban have declared allegiance to the so-called Islamic State (IS) and have ordered militants across the region to assist the terrorist organisation. IS activists have been spotted recently in Peshawar, Pakistan, distributing pamphlets praising the group.

There are concerns about further turmoil in the region as most US-led foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan this year, with groups like the Haqqani network likely to exploit the security vacuum to strengthen their hold on Afghan regions.

Already, according to a report from the Associated Press and the Human Rights Watch of Sunday, 12 October 2014, the IS has published a magazine in which they affirm that they have captured, enslaved and sold Yazidi women and children.

1. Is the EEAS monitoring the alliance between the IS and the Pakistani Taliban?
2. Do the border control measures recently adopted by the EU also take account of returning EU citizens that may have been fighting as jihadists with the Taliban in Pakistan and Afghanistan?
3. What steps, if any, are being taken in cooperation with the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan to secure the area from the activities of the Pakistani Taliban?