

**Question for written answer E-010036/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: What roadmap should be followed to make a European defence force a reality?

Today many parts of the world are facing an uncertain future. Tensions are still simmering in Ukraine, for example, while in the Middle East the ongoing brutality of President Bachar Al-Assad's regime in Syria has perhaps been overshadowed by the atrocities currently being perpetrated by ISIS. The security situation also remains precarious in parts of Africa, especially in northern Mali and the Central African Republic.

Faced with these challenges and those of tomorrow, Europe simply has to take a quantum leap forward in its defence policy.

In a recent study conducted by the European Parliament, it was estimated that the economic costs of a lack of action at EU level in defence amount to between EUR 26 and 130 billion annually.

It must be stressed that Europe's security is currently guaranteed by just a handful of countries that have taken it upon themselves to defend the continent, at enormous financial expense. However, since we are all facing the same security fears, we must meet them with a genuine European defence policy that aims to ensure better coordination between the military forces of Member States and establish a defence market.

In light of the above, what steps does the European Commission intend to take to finally make a European defence force a reality?