

**Question for written answer E-011091/2014  
to the Council**

Rule 130

**Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz (ALDE) and Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)**

Subject: Removal of Hamas from the list of terrorist organisations

The European Court of Justice has annulled the European Union's September 2003 decision to include the Palestinian organisation Hamas in the list of terrorist organisations. The Court of Justice considers that the measure was not based on facts examined by the competent national authorities, but on factual imputations derived from the press and the internet.

An institution such as the Council should not allow its standards to slip in this way when seeking to substantiate relevant and indispensable arguments in such a case. This is essential if it wishes to continue playing a prominent role in the Middle East conflict and the fight against terrorism. It is our duty to ensure that the Council conducts itself with rigour and commitment.

Does the Council intend to appeal this decision?

If so, on what will it base its arguments in order to avoid a ruling in which its sources are challenged?

How does the Council expect to improve the basis of its arguments, particularly taking into account that two months ago the European Court of Justice annulled the inclusion in the list of terrorist organisations of the Sri Lanka Tamil Tigers for the same reason?