

**Question for written answer E-003442/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Tunisia-EU counter-terrorism cooperation and human rights

The European Council of 12 February 2015 declared that the EU needs ‘to engage more [...] on counter-terrorism, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa [...]’ According to the the Foreign Affairs Council of 9 February 2015, the EU needs to upgrade ‘security and counter-terrorism dialogues’ with Tunisia. To that end, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator is now visiting Tunisia.

Meanwhile, representatives from 21 Tunisian associations and unions recently voiced their concern that the EU could repeat past mistakes. In 2011 the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy publicly recognised those mistakes – i.e. supporting and reinforcing Tunisia’s repressive state without ensuring effective guarantees against misuse of European assistance.

What effective guarantees are in place to ensure that EU programmes in Tunisia are in line with Parliament’s resolution of 11 February 2015 on anti-terrorism measures, which ‘emphasised, in particular, the need for the EU, its Member States and its partner countries to base their strategy for combating international terrorism on the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights’?

Will the Council work on finding a harmonised, unambiguous definition of terrorism with Tunisia?

Does the Council believe that Tunisia complies fully with the standards set by the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular as regards Article 6 on the right to a fair trial?