

**Question for written answer E-004126/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Statement by the VP/HR on Palestine's ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

On 31 December 2014, the State of Palestine submitted its application to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) and soon after submitted a declaration granting the Court jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed on Palestinian territory since 13 June 2014.

As stated in the EU's Common Position on the ICC and its action plan, the EU is committed to 'advancing universal support for the ICC by promoting the widest possible participation in it'. It is standard practice that the VP/HR welcomes the accession of third countries to the Rome Statute.

On 6 January 2015, the VP/HR affirmed that the 'recent steps taken by Palestinians and Israelis could aggravate the already tense situation on the ground'.

Could the VP/HR clarify what is meant by these remarks?

When will the VP/HR welcome Palestine's accession to the ICC?