

Question for written answer E-004917/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Declassification of the PKK as a 'terrorist organisation' by the EU

Just as the European Commission is well aware of the 'Kurdish issue' – a conflict that has been going on for over 30 years and in which thousands have died – it is also aware of the proven democratic deficit in Turkey, whether in relation to the 'Kurdish issue' or, to cite just one more example, the 'Armenian issue'. On 21 March 2013 Abdullah Öcalan, the imprisoned historic leader of the PKK, ordered a cease-fire by the Kurdish resistance, and that same year peace talks began and the PKK withdrew its militias from Turkey.

Does the European Commission not consider that declassifying the PKK as a terrorist group would tend to facilitate greater stability, understanding and collaboration between the Turkish authorities and the Kurdish population as a whole against the threat posed by ISIS to both of them and also to Europe via the passageways from Syria, Iraq and Turkey itself?

Why has the European External Action Service not to date considered tackling issues of security and humanitarian aid also with the PKK as an equal-status participant?

How are the European External Action Service and Turkey collaborating to deal with the progressive threat posed by ISIS?