

**Question for written answer E-005322/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Gabriel Mato (PPE) and Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE)

Subject: Action to prevent children's participation in armed conflicts

Many children, in conflict areas worldwide, are the focus of attention of groups of armed irregulars, which recruit them to join their organisations.

The UN has issued an alert on this situation, which seems to worsen by the day. The EU must also take action to prevent continued abuses and the violation of the rights of these children, under the control of increasingly ruthless groups.

Does the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy consider that the EU can do more in these efforts to defend the rights of these children?

What practical action is she taking right now?