

Question for written answer E-005851/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Extending mutual legal assistance with third countries with regard to obtaining evidence in the fight against terrorism

The extent of the phenomenon of European citizens and residents described as foreign fighters calls for an effective legal response. As of 2 December 2014, only ten or so convictions had been delivered, for approximately three thousand foreign fighters originating from the European Union.

The criminal indictment of these terrorists assumes that admissible evidence could be collected. This is not without legal and practical difficulties, the foremost of which is obtaining evidence from Syrian, Iraqi or Libyan territories.

However, the European Union and its agencies have no systematic means of legal cooperation with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, except Turkey.

How does the Commission intend to encourage the conclusion of such agreements with third countries, facilitating the obtaining of evidence particularly against potential foreign fighters and fighters returning to the country, in order to improve the effectiveness of penal responses to terrorism?