

**Question for written answer E-006410/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The creation of a European army

Last Sunday, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker stated that a European army ought to be set up. His statement was confirmed by the Commission itself at a press conference on Monday.

Creating a European army would make it possible to defend more coherently European values based on human rights and democracy, and to address threats that apply to various countries and therefore require a common response. Furthermore, the advantages involved would be both operational and economic.

In the light of the Commission's statements, and taking into account the fact that the Treaties provide for the possibility of moving towards a common defence capability and the advantages that would have:

1. Could the Commission state whether the proposal it will put forward at the forthcoming meeting of the European Council in June will be ambitious in making a decisive move towards the creation of a European army and a common defence capability?
2. Does the Commission think that a first step might be to urge the Council to shore up and consolidate the European Defence Agency as the institution responsible for the EU's defence?
3. How does the Commission intend to overcome resistance from Member States such as the UK which are opposed to increased defence cooperation in the EU?