

**Question for written answer E-006563/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Afzal Khan (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Children used as soldiers in armed conflicts

Hundreds of thousands of children are used as soldiers in armed conflicts around the world. Many children are abducted and beaten into submission; others join military groups to escape poverty, to defend their communities, out of a feeling of revenge or for other reasons. Child soldiers are victims, whose participation in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being. They are commonly subject to abuse and most of them witness death, killing, and sexual violence. Many are forced to perpetrate these atrocities and some suffer serious long-term psychological consequences. The reintegration of these children into civilian life is a complex process.

How is the EU helping address this?

Is the issue of children affected by armed conflict integrated into Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations?