

**Question for written answer E-008034/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: EUCAP Sahel Niger

On 8 August 2012, the European Union launched a CSDP civilian mission in Niger with the aim of strengthening the ability of the Niger security forces to combat terrorism and organised crime.

The mission is taking place at a particularly difficult time in the Sahel, with the fight against terrorism in Mali and the chaos reigning in Libya. The Sahel has become a popular region for all kinds of trafficking (arms, drugs, migrants, etc.) with terrorist and criminal gangs proliferating. It is estimated that around 60 % of migrants arriving in Lampedusa have passed through the town of Agadez, in the north of Niger.

1. Given the strategic position of Niger in the flow of migrants, is the aim of the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission that of helping the Niger security forces to gain control of their borders and thereby prevent migrants from reaching the EU?
2. If so, does this not go against the obligations of the Geneva Convention on the right to asylum?
3. What is the state of affairs regarding cooperation between the four CSDP operations in the region, namely EUBAM Libya, EUCAP Sahel Niger, EUCAP Sahel Mali and EUTM Mali?