

**Question for written answer E-010062/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 130  
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Cooperation with Russia in combating terrorism

Following the death in April 2015 of Doku Umarov, leader of the Caucasus Emirate (IK) terrorist group, an increasing number of its members in that region have defected to the Islamic State.

According to Russian intelligence sources, the number of actual IK adherents is dwindling, while the emirs of certain provinces (vilayets) making up the Caucasus Emirate have now pledged allegiance to the Islamic State.

As a result, ISIS is effectively extending its area of influence within a neighbouring country and it is therefore essential to forge closer links with Russia without delay for the purpose of combating terrorism.

What information does the High Representative have regarding the strengthening and extension of ISIS in the Caucasus region?

Does the High Representative consider that the European Union should cooperate more closely with Russia in combating terrorism?

Does the High Representative agree that the sanctions currently being imposed on Russia are an obstacle to this necessary cooperation?