

**Question for written answer E-010694/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - The case of President Omar al-Bashir before the International Criminal Court

On 15 June 2015, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was able to leave South Africa, after attending an African Union meeting there. President al-Bashir is being sought by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide related to the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. Though South Africa is a signatory to the Rome Statute, its government defied the longstanding arrest warrant for Mr Bashir. It is not the first time that Mr Bashir has travelled to other countries that have signed the Rome Statute and been allowed to leave.

How do the VP/HR and the European External Action Service (EEAS) plan to address this case with the South African authorities and how do they plan to ensure that this does not happen again in the future?

How does the VP/HR assess the implications of the failure to arrest Mr Bashir for the credibility of the ICC and its ability to carry out its crucial task of ensuring accountability and justice for war criminals?

More broadly, how do the VP/HR and the EEAS plan to move forward to strengthen the ICC's credibility, especially in Africa, where resistance to the ICC has been growing over the past years and its legitimacy has actively been called into question?