

Question for written answer E-011795/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - US drones deployed on European military bases

One of the largest military bases outside the USA, Ramstein in Germany, is being used for US drone attacks in the Middle East. It is located near a student baseball field and can accommodate 16 thousand military and civilian personnel. In 2010, the US air force stated that, without the German base, 'operational capacity' would have been considerably diminished, since Predator and Reaper drone attacks would not have been possible. Germany has authorised the US to use the base subject to compliance with German law.

The US administration claims that drone strikes against Al Qaeda and its allies are legal, even if they take place outside war zones, while the official German stance is that such operations are only admissible on the front line. Under the 2002 Code of Crimes against International Law, Germany is entitled to initiate proceedings against infringements of international law, even where they occur outside the country and have no impact on Germany'.

In view of this:

Does the High Representative regard as inadmissible attacks launched from EU military bases against territories in third countries with which Member States are not at war?