

Question for written answer E-012515/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - NATO's 'Trident Juncture' exercise

'Trident Juncture' will be NATO's largest exercise since the end of the Cold War and it will take place in central Spain. A total of 30 000 troops will be deployed, along with hundreds of tanks, military aircraft and ships throughout the peninsula and along its entire coastline, and the exercise will involve 30 countries - including all the members of the alliance - and a dozen humanitarian aid organisations.

The key operations, including simulated missions by special forces, amphibious landings, paratroop deployments, land offensives, etc., will take place during the second part of the exercise, named LIVEX.

A surprising new development is the involvement of the European Union itself in what is clearly a NATO exercise.

Does the EU usually take part in NATO military exercises of this scale? Will EU involvement become the norm in the future? Does this mean that the EU has given up on the concept of maintaining an independent deterrent separate from that of the USA?

What is the real purpose of this exercise? Our impression, as confirmed by many media reports and most analysts, is that it is intended solely to issue a warning to Russia.