

**Question for written answer E-005009/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Udo Voigt (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Deployment of armed forces from the Member States in Syria

Deployment of armed forces from the Member States in Syria

Is it true that European soldiers are taking part in an illegal military intervention on Syrian soil without legal justification or an official invitation from the government in Damascus?

If that is the case, can the VP/HR provide information about the international legal basis for the deployment.

On 15 June 2016, the Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister, Ayman Sosan, explained that the presence of US, French and German elite troops on Syrian soil was a flagrant violation of the country's sovereignty and independence. According to Sosan, this unauthorised intrusion contradicts the most basic rules of international law.

Highly-trained European special task force troops are also participating in joint operations in the regions around Ayn al-Arab and the city of Manbij in the Aleppo Province. A military base at the Tishrin dam serves as the elite western troops' starting point<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://sana.sy/en/?p=80230>