

**Question for written answer E-007254/2016/rev.1**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Franck Proust (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling - Spratly and Paracel Islands

On 12 July 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague issued a ruling on a dispute dating back to 2013 between the Philippines and China over the waters of the South China Sea. Although it has no 'historic right' to these waters according to the PCA, China is claiming that the entirety of this area (comprising mainly the Spratly and Paracel Islands) is subject to its sovereignty.

1. What is the Vice-President / High Representative's stance on China's outright refusal to respect the PCA's ruling?
2. How does it intend to support the implementation of the ruling?
3. Does the EU's global strategy for foreign and security policy include a European plan of action for this area?