

Question for written answer E-007796/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - EU position on the adoption of the JASTA Bill

On 28 September the US Congress overrode President Obama's veto and passed the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism (JASTA) Bill. This act allows any American citizen to sue foreign states – despite the fact that these are sovereign entities – believed to have aided or encouraged organisations implicated in terrorist activities directed against the United States.

The EU delegation in the US had already written to the State Department to express its disquiet, specifically concerning the question whether the act is compatible with international law. The European diplomats made the point that foreign sovereign immunity is a cornerstone of the international order and said that the EU would seek assurances from the American administration that the principle of such immunity would not be violated.

Bearing in mind the impact of this act on international law and the fact that the EU has long advocated a multipolar world, what implications might ensue, in the opinion of the High Representative, from the adoption of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act?