

Question for written answer E-008904/2016/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Andi Cristea (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - International Criminal Court

The International Criminal Court is a permanent international judicial body which tries persons who have committed acts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

It is extremely alarming that no fewer than three African countries have already announced their intention to withdraw from that Court, regardless of their reasons for doing so. In October, South Africa, Burundi and Gambia announced they were to withdraw. Recently, Russia, which has never ratified the agreement to become a member of the Court, withdrew its signature from the founding statute. The President of the Philippines has also stated that he intends to withdraw his country from the Court's ambit, owing to the criticisms levelled against the extreme measures he has taken to combat crime.

These unprecedented decisions may start a disturbing trend among other states that also refuse to recognise the authority of the Court, which makes a vital contribution to promoting basic human rights.

What action will the Vice-President / High Representative take to permanently uphold, support and promote the International Criminal Court, especially vis-à-vis key regional players and in its bilateral relations?