

Question for written answer E-009053/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - European Defence Union

The Paet Report on the European defence union was adopted during the November part-session. This report, as the Vice-President/High Representative will know, pushes for a military union with strong military capabilities. It also encourages the development of EU defence industries and the military industrial complex, and demands that Member States earmark 2 % of GDP to defence.

The report also calls for EUR 90 million to be set aside for EU defence research and for a defence research programme to be fully funded by the EU from 2021 to the tune of EUR 500 million per year.

Bearing in mind that there are millions of people in the EU living below the poverty line (in Spain, for example, one in every five households):

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative believe it would be right for the EU to spend EUR 500 million on defence research when people are going hungry in Europe?
2. Does she not agree, furthermore, that acting on this report would infringe Article 41(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), which prohibits use of the EU budget for expenditure arising from operations with military or defence implications?