

**Question for written answer E-000059/2017**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: Establishing a European Defence Fund

Following the European Council meeting of 15 December 2016, the Member States lent their backing to the Commission's proposal that the EU should become more active in the defence field. In particular, they called on the Commission to present in the first half of 2017 a legislative proposal to establish a European Defence Fund, whose main objective would be to support research into and the development of military technologies.

In its communication of 30 November 2016, the Commission states that a Coordination Board would decide which research projects should be funded. The board members would be the Vice-President High Representative and delegates from each Member State, the Commission, the European Defence Agency and the defence industry. It is still not clear what criteria the Coordination Board would use to determine which research projects to finance, however.

Given that military technologies must be developed to suit the different types of terrain encountered, can the Commission say how the lessons learnt from military operations carried out under the Common Security and Defence Policy would be taken into account when deciding which research projects to fund?