

**Question for written answer E-000079/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Tension between China and the USA

The President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, telephoned Donald Trump on 2 December 2016 to congratulate him on his election. It was the first conversation of its kind since 1979. Trump questioned the 'one China' policy. Beijing protested and called for previous agreements to be adhered to.

China-US relations have become strained over the past few weeks following Trump's statements on trade relations with China, and the capture of a US Navy drone in Chinese territory. Trump said it had been stolen. China accused him of 'exaggerating' the incident.

Furthermore, Obama has signed the 2017 military budget, which makes provision for a military cooperation programme between the USA and Taiwan. China made a formal complaint to the USA, emphasising that the issue of Taiwan relates to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, and that the USA's action constitutes interference in China's internal affairs and a violation of the commitments entered into by the USA.

1. What is the EU's stance with regard to the increase in tension between the USA and China?
2. What will the EU's political and defence strategies be in the event of the tension continuing or being ratcheted up further?