Question for written answer E-000657/2017 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130 Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Freezing the financial assets of terrorist networks

Tackling the financing of terrorist networks is key strand of EU security action and asset freezes are one of the main tools available to the EU authorities in this area. In its third report on establishing a Security Union, the Commission said it was against setting up an EU system for freezing the financial assets of terrorist networks, as provided for in Article 75 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Commission justified this stance by saying that the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) asset freezing regimes were sufficiently effective in tackling terrorist financing.

However, by submitting, on 21 December 2016, a proposal for a regulation on the mutual recognition of national decisions to freeze terrorist assets, the Commission made it clear that EU procedures could be improved.

Can the High Representative provide some hard facts proving the effectiveness of the CFSP's asset freezing regimes, such as the total value of the assets frozen since the regimes were set up?

Can she also say what the arrangements are for coordination between the CFSP regimes and the work of national authorities responsible for decisions to freeze terrorist assets?

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