

Question for written answer E-001370/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Situation in Syria

After almost six years of war in Syria, peace talks are taking place between the government and the opposition at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Staffan de Mistura succeeded in getting both parties to the table for the first time in three years at the opening ceremony for the fourth round of talks since 2012.

Mr de Mistura has called on representatives of both parties to be respectful during the negotiations, to refrain from making personal attacks and to adhere to confidentiality agreements.

It looks, however, as though violence may yet scupper this attempt to bring peace to Syria. The talks became strained following the attack on four strategic positions in Homs on 25 February. At least 42 people were killed, including a military intelligence chief. The Syrian Ambassador to the UN, Bashar al-Jaafari, called on the opposition to condemn the bombings, pointing out that 'anyone [who] refuses to condemn this terrorist attack is an accomplice of terrorism'.

With regard to the opportunities for rapprochement and dialogue between the two sides:

1. What initiative will the EU be taking with a view to facilitating a peaceful solution to the conflict?
2. What role will the EU be assuming as of now in the Syrian peace process?