

**Question for written answer E-002565/2017/rev.1  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE/NGL) and Miguel Urbán Crespo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Conscientious objection to arms shipments to Saudi Arabia

On 25 February 2016, the European Parliament voiced 'its grave concern at the alarming deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yemen' as a result, among other things, of 'the intensification of air strikes by the Saudi-led coalition'. The resolution called on the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission to 'launch an initiative aimed at imposing an EU arms embargo against Saudi Arabia' and pointed out that continued arms sales 'would therefore be in breach of Common Council Position 2008/944/CFSP'.

Despite this, on 13 March 2017, in what is a worryingly common occurrence, 4000 tonnes of explosive munitions were shipped to Saudi Arabia from the Port of Bilbao. In this instance, the fire brigade officer on duty, who is now facing disciplinary proceedings which could result in his dismissal, cited conscientious objection as his reason for refusing to play any part in the operation.

1. What measures is the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission taking in response to Parliament's call for an arms embargo?
2. Does the High Representative/Vice President have any control over exports of arms from Europe for use in the Yemen conflict?