

**Question for written answer E-003447/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: VP/HR - EU double standards concerning civilian victims of airstrikes in Iraq and Syria

In late 2016 the European Union strongly condemned the Syrian Government and its allies, particularly Russia, for their actions in retaking the eastern part of Aleppo from a collection of Jihadi rebel groups. On 17 October 2016, the conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council described the aerial bombardment of the city as being of an 'intensity and scale' that was 'clearly disproportionate.' Four days later, the European Council went further, condemning attacks on civilians in Aleppo.

On each occasion the EU reiterated its support for the international coalition, but the coalition's bombings also leave victims. The US military acknowledged in a statement issued by the Pentagon on 30 April 2017 that the coalition has been responsible for at least 350 civilian casualties in Iraq and Syria since 2014. Airwars, an association monitoring airstrikes by the coalition, considers that this figure falls well short of reality; it believes the true number of civilians killed since the start of operations to be 3 000.

The European Union should therefore, in the interests of consistency, condemn airstrikes by the coalition, as it did the Syrian-Russian strikes.

Does the VP/HR plan to put an end to these double standards?