

**Question for written answer E-003495/2017**  
**to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Rachida Dati (PPE)**

Subject: Use of armed drones

In its resolution of 24 February 2014, the European Parliament expressed its 'grave concern over the use of armed drones outside the international legal framework' and added that 'the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS, hereinafter 'drones') in extraterritorial lethal operations has increased steeply over the past decade'.

On 2 June 2015 I put a written question to the Council on drawing up a common position on the use of armed drones in external operations. As I stated in this written question, drones are an indispensable item of equipment for the armed forces faced with the requirements of theatres of operations. However, their use in a military setting raises a number of legal and ethical issues.

However, no strategy has so far been drawn up for armed drones.

In view of the above, will the Council state whether it believes that a common position should be drawn up on this matter and will it put this item on the agenda of a forthcoming meeting?