

Question for written answer E-005021/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - The European Union's stance on nuclear disarmament

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 71/258, through which it was decided to convene a conference in order to negotiate a legally-binding instrument that prohibits nuclear weapons and leads towards their total elimination. The Resolution also recalled that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons served as the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The 2003 European Security Strategy stated that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was the greatest threat to our security, and included that the weapons of mass destruction arms race had the potential to escalate. The 2016 EU Global Strategy did not allude to weapons of mass destruction, proliferation or arms control at all. Against that background:

1. What has led the EU to change its strategy on this topic, and how does it plan to contribute to international efforts to control the number of nuclear weapons?
2. In the light of the fact that a number of Member States refused to take part in the United Nations Conference sessions on negotiating a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear arms and lead towards their total elimination, what stance will the EU take?