

**Question for written answer E-006712/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Richard Sulík (ECR)

Subject: European intelligence unit

On 18 October 2017, the Commission issued a press release setting out new Commission measures to improve the protection of EU citizens. Among other things, it stated that it was also working on a future European intelligence unit, as Jean-Claude Juncker said in his vision of the European Union up to 2025. The President of the Commission had initially indicated that he wanted to strengthen the Europol Counter-Terrorism Centre, and not create a new agency or institution. Apart from budgetary efficiency, the creation of a new agency raises the question of whether two parallel anti-terrorism agencies would not ultimately weaken EU intelligence. It is clear from the experience of several Member States that conflicts of jurisdiction between intelligence agencies hinder effective cooperation within a single country.

1. The European Counter-Terrorism Centre has only been in operation since January 2016. Can the Commission say, why is it envisaging the creation of another intelligence unit, abandoning the idea of strengthening the existing Europol Counter-Terrorism Centre?
2. How will the activities of the two units differ?
3. Will all the competencies and powers of the new unit be discussed in parallel with its creation?