

**Question for written answer E-007198/2017**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Franz Obermayr (ENF)**

Subject: VP/HR - Embargo on the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq

Shortly after the independence referendum that was held on 25 September 2017 in the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq, the Iraqi government set up a no-fly zone<sup>1</sup> over the region. This affects Erbil Airport and Sulaymaniya Airport. According to the Kurdish regional government, this no-fly area has made it difficult to obtain relief aid in the wake of the earthquake that occurred on 12 November 2017 in the region.

Moreover, cashflow to banks in the Kurdish region have been halted by the Iraqi Central Bank<sup>2</sup>.

1. Can the High Representative confirm that this no-fly area has resulted in aid shortages?
2. What capacity dose the EU have to cover the missing funds destined for refugees in the region as well?
3. Given that there are already 1.5 million refugees in the Kurdish region, should Europe expect the arrival of more refugees from this region?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tagesschau.de/ausland/irak-referendum-103.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-kurds-referendum-elect/iraqi-kurds-face-more-sanctions-after-calling-elections-idUSKCN1C814N>