

**Question for written answer E-000124/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Udo Voigt (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - Withdrawal of the 'Islamic State' terrorist group from the Syrian war zone

According to recent Russian media reports, military experts are observing a systematic withdrawal of fighters belonging to the 'Islamic State' (IS) terrorist group as a result of its military defeat in Syria. During a recent round-table discussion in Moscow on the resolution of the Syrian crisis, a Russian military expert explained that IS fighters were fleeing to Afghanistan and Libya in particular. The expert also broke the sensational news that Turkey was helping with the withdrawal, stating that: 'The fighters are being taken out of Syria in various directions. Turkish Airlines have flown IS fighters to Libya via Jordan. This has actually happened.'

The expert added that Libya was not the only destination for the fighters, and that one plausible scenario among various possibilities was that the terrorists might come to the EU and try to blend in with asylum-seekers.

1. What information does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy have about assistance given by Turkey with the current withdrawal of the 'Islamic State' (IS) terrorist group from the Syrian war zone?
2. How do the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the EU's border protection agency Frontex assess the possibility that IS fighters may infiltrate the EU from Libya? How many such instances have been documented since 2016?