

**Question for written answer E-001171/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Situation in Eastern Ghouta

Since Sunday 18 February 2018, hundreds of civilians have been killed as a result of bombing and shelling carried out by the Syrian regime in the last rebel enclave of Eastern Ghouta, near Damascus. The victims include dozens of trapped and helpless children.

For the last five years, the destruction of civilian buildings, including hospitals which are no longer operational, has been compounded by the blockade imposed on Eastern Ghouta. As a result, some 400 000 people are trapped and have no access to the humanitarian aid which international organisations are trying to provide. These civilians are thus being forced to contend not only with the threat of air attack, but also with those of famine and malnutrition.

On 19 February, High Representative Federica Mogherini and Christos Stylianides, the Commissioner responsible for humanitarian aid, warned the international community about the tragedy unfolding in Eastern Ghouta. Since then, and in spite of the adoption by the UN Security Council on 24 February of a resolution calling for a ceasefire, the air raids and the fighting on the ground are continuing.

After so many futile declarations, what practical steps can the Commission take to end the nightmare in Eastern Ghouta?