

**Question for written answer E-002294/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Bombing of Syria by France and the United Kingdom

For eight years now, Syria has suffered under a bloody war typified by the arrival of thousands of foreign jihadist fighters who imposed an Islamic fundamentalist dictatorship on wide swathes of the country. The war has forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and sown death and destruction across the country.

The Syrian army has made significant progress recently in its fight against Islamic terrorism, with the liberation of some major cities (Aleppo, areas around Damascus). Many of those who fled are returning to their homes and there are many reports testifying to the population's clear support for the current government.

On 14 April 2018, on the pretext that the Syrian Government had used chemical weapons against the population in Duma (a charge it has not been possible to prove), the US, France and the United Kingdom bombed Damascus.

However, the European Union has repeatedly acknowledged that a purely military solution to the conflict in Syria is not possible and has advocated a negotiated solution.

What progress has the EU made towards achieving a negotiated solution that will end the humanitarian crisis in the country?

Will the EU insist that the UK and France comply with international law?