

**Question for written answer E-002296/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Investigation into the alleged chemical attack in Syria

On 14 April 2018, the US, France and the United Kingdom carried out air strikes on Damascus on the pretext that the Syrian government had used chemical weapons against the population in Douma – an accusation that has not been proven.

In an agreement signed with Russia and the US on 14 September 2013, the Syrian government had given an undertaking to destroy its entire arsenal of chemical weapons.

It must be borne in mind that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) announced in June 2014 that the last of Syria's chemical weapons stockpile had been removed on the Danish vessel Ark Futura from the port of Latakia. The sarin and mustard gas and VX nerve agent it was carrying were due to be destroyed in the Mediterranean, after being placed inside sealed containers on board the US vessel Cape Ra, while other less hazardous materials were to be destroyed on land.

The OPCW, which had been entrusted with the task of supervising the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons under a United Nations resolution, declared that Syria had completed the disabling of its production and mixing facilities.

Given the lack of proof of the chemical attack on Douma:

1. Has the EU supervised the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal?
2. In what way has the EU cooperated in the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria?