

**Question for written answer P-007817/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Strengthening the institutions of Lebanon: a pressing need in a troubled region

In a Middle East destabilised by conflict, where states are disintegrating, Lebanon must remain a pivotal country. Only a Lebanon founded on solid institutions will be capable of continuing to play this vital role.

However, since 25 May 2014 there has been a power vacuum in the country, with a dozen meetings having been held to elect a successor to Michel Suleiman, the outgoing president, and no consensus having yet been found.

Lebanon faces enormous security, economic and humanitarian challenges. In this context the risk of sectarian tensions and of tensions between Lebanese and refugees from various conflicts is rising.

As guarantor of the country's independence, unity and territorial integrity, the president plays a crucial role in consolidating Lebanon, which is essential if it is to maintain its regional role.

Lebanon is a partner country of the European Union under the neighbourhood policy. I would like to ask what urgent initiatives the Commission intends to take to encourage the resumption of a political dialogue to help strengthen the country's institutions.