

**Question for written answer P-000519/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and list of terrorist organisations

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has been withdrawn by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe from its list of terrorist organisations, following the adoption of a resolution on the Kurdish question in April 2014.

Since 2012, talks have resumed between the Turkish authorities and the head of the PKK, Abdullah Öcalan – who has been in prison since 1999 – seeking to find a peaceful political solution to the Kurdish question.

Since the start of the offensive by the group known as 'Islamic State', the PKK has represented resistance to terrorism in Iraq, rescuing thousands of Yezidi Kurds, and in Kobani, Syria, where it is the only organisation fighting back against the 'Islamic State'.

It is a bulwark against terrorism and cannot therefore be treated as a terrorist organisation itself. It plays an active role in stability and peace in the Middle East.

Accordingly there is no justification for keeping the PKK on the EU's list of terrorist organisations; the Kurds' demands should be met.

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative not consider that a free and frank debate on the nature of the PKK is now called for?
2. Will the Vice-President/High Representative take action to have the PKK withdrawn from the Union's list of terrorist organisations?