

Question for written answer P-001121/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - EU Presence in Erbil

The global role and profile of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has dramatically increased since the rise of ISIS. The Peshmerga are playing a crucial role in the fight against ISIS in the region and have proven to be one of the most active and effective forces on the ground. Future engagement at both EU and Member State level is therefore very important. Many Member States, including the UK, France and Germany, already have a diplomatic presence in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, but to date the EU does not.

At the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in August 2014, one conclusion of the meeting was a call for the European External Action Service (EEAS) to increase its presence in Erbil. At the January 2015 part-session, the Vice President / High Representative informed Parliament that an 'organised permanent presence as the European Union in Erbil' was planned.

1. Can the Vice President / High Representative give further details of these plans, including the timescale for delivery, the proposed start-up and operational budgets allocated, the level of staff that is envisaged, and the planned roles of the mission?
2. Can the Vice President / High Representative give details of what relationship this presence would enjoy with regard to the current EU mission based in Baghdad?