

Question for written answer P-004731/2016
to the Council
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Cooperation between the Russian intelligence services and those of the Member States

In March 2014 the EU introduced restrictive and diplomatic measures and economic sanctions against Russia. The restrictive measures – asset freezes and visa bans – apply to 149 people, including high-ranking Russian intelligence officers such as the directors of the Federal Security Service (FSB) and the Foreign Intelligence Service, the commander of the fifth section of the FSB and the secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation.

These sanctions have significantly reduced cooperation between the Member States and Russia concerning military intelligence and internal and external security. Such cooperation is, however, essential and we have chosen to live without it since 2014.

The European Council is due to decide, on 28 and 29 June 2016, whether or not to renew sanctions against Russia for a further six months.

With a view to effectively combating terrorism and taking advantage of Russia's renowned expertise in this field, does the Council not think there is an urgent need to abolish these restrictive measures against Russia, in the area of security cooperation?