

**Question for written answer P-008508/2016/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Common defence in a new world context

The arrival in power of Donald Trump will entail a change to the global context with geopolitical repercussions that will be of vital importance for the European Union. The US is currently the largest contributor to NATO (69.3 %) but the new US President envisages cutting this contribution to a minimum, and is opposed to compliance with Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, concerning mutual defence.

In this context enhanced cooperation on defence, one of the priorities set out in the Bratislava Declaration on 16 September 2016, should become a necessity, including the possible move towards the creation of a European army, as already proposed by the Commission's President. In answer to my question E-006410/2015, Mr Juncker stated that this army could serve to send important signals to the world, as NATO may no longer be sufficient.

In view of the bilateral meetings requested with the new US President:

1. What specific commitments will the Vice President/High Representative call for from the new US Government in their next bilateral meeting on security and defence, particularly concerning NATO?
2. Does the Vice President/High Representative plan to head the progressive move towards a full and complete common defence policy, seeking unanimity in the Council, as provided for in Articles 24 and 42 of the Treaty on European Union?