

**Question for written answer E-001540/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Åsa Westlund (S&D) and Göran Färm (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - The Situation in Syria

What is happening in Syria is a crime against humanity. Like everyone else, the EU has an obligation to stop the mass killing in Syria. The blocking of the UN Security Council by Russia and China is not justifiable. If it is impossible to obtain a new resolution in the Security Council then the rest of the world must move forward without Russia and China.

- The USA has closed its embassy in Syria and the United Kingdom has called its ambassador home. Does the EU plan to take similar action, and why has this not already happened?
- Why have the EU and its Member States not coordinated their efforts externally, with the United States, for example?
- Why have the EU and its Member States not succeeded in coordinating their efforts internally?
- According to the UN Charter, Chapter 8, there are possibilities for regional arrangements. This is an option that should be considered for the EU and the Arab League together with the USA and possibly Turkey. Does the EU intend to do this, or to use other means to take matters further with other countries to persuade President Bashar al-Assad to step down, allowing the establishment of a government elected by the people?