

**Question for written answer E-000084/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Tonino Picula (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Goals of the European chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia

In January, the European Union took over the chairmanship of the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) from the United States. Wishing the Group's chairperson, Maciej Popowski, success in his work and supporting the strong resolve to reduce the number of seized seafarers and ships to zero, I am interested in the following:

- Although the number of hostages has fallen from over 700 to around 50, how do you plan to achieve the desired goal that there should no longer be any ships that are detained or seafarers held hostage?
- Are there sufficient material and political resources to achieve this goal?
- Are you considering offering assistance to eradicate or prevent the spread of piracy in other parts of the world as well, such as Nigeria, the Malacca Strait and the South China Sea?