

**Question for written answer E-002390/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Giommaria Uggias (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Request to check the existence of evidence in the case of the Italian seamen

In the case of the two able seamen serving as Marines in the Italian Navy, who are being held in Indian prisons, press sources report that evidence consisting of the radar plots from the ship *Enrica Lexie* and some photographs of the incident involving the Italian oil tanker has been suppressed.

In March 2013 the Italian Public Prosecutor's Office, both civilian and military, itself announced at a press conference that it held the *Lexie's* on-board computer, on which the radar saved its recordings. The radar recordings are also in the possession of the Indian investigators who, reportedly, made a copy of the hard disk on 6 March 2012.

If the leaks are confirmed, this evidence would fill a huge and inexplicable gap in the reconstruction of the facts. With pictures of what happened available, including the vessel's positions, routes and speeds, it would be possible to reconstruct the incident with infinitely greater accuracy than any witness report.

In view of this, can the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following questions:

1. Is she aware of the existence of the documentary evidence in question?
2. If the existence of such evidence is confirmed, does she consider it her duty to intervene with the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Italy to place the suppressed evidence at the disposal of the competent judicial authorities?