

**Question for written answer E-012702/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF) and Jean-Marie Le Pen (NI)**

Subject: VP/HR - cooperating with Syria to combat terrorism

After four and a half years of war in Syria, no moderate opposition has yet emerged in the country, at least among the rebels fighting the regime. The only moderate opposition movement is non-violent and is represented in the Syrian Parliament. In truth, the only forces fighting the various armed Islamic and jihadist groups active in the region are the Syrian Army and its Kurdish allies from the YPG (People's Protection Units). If the Syrian Government were to be overthrown, power would be seized by a loose alliance of radical Islamist groups and any hopes for political reform, for democracy and for greater freedom would evaporate. Instead, minorities would be persecuted and the Sunni majority would be forced to practise Islam in accordance with Wahhabi doctrine, which is alien to them.

Weakening Syria and its army weakens the front line in the fight against IS and Al-Qaeda. Meanwhile, the effectiveness of the air strikes carried out by the international coalition has been limited. Working with the armies of countries in the region (Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon) is the only way to combat jihadist groups successfully.

Does the High Representative plan to revise EU policy towards Syria, and specifically to stop pushing for regime change and instead cooperate with the Syrian authorities?