

**Question for written answer E-004525/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Eleftherios Synadinos (NI)

Subject: VP/HR - Piracy in Somalia and the EU response strategy

After a five-year decline in piracy, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has requested naval contribution from Member States and the International Maritime Organisation concerning the crossing of ships from Somali regions and the wider Middle East, and cited new attacks and the fact that large parts of Somali coast remain beyond the control of law enforcement. ¹

The eradication of piracy is practically impossible, but some cases may be suppressed to a sufficient extent by the cooperation of the parties involved to ensure the international seaborne trade, despite the geopolitical controversies and social, economic and political gaps in the level of development, institutions, culture and law of adjacent countries.

After the gradual operational pullout of NATO, an indicative case is operation Atalanta which is the sole stand-alone multi-level operation under the EU's common foreign security and defence policy.

- How does the Vice-President / High Representative perceive the new data on the EU political and operational involvement in the region and how is the European contribution influenced towards ensuring the secure free passage of commercial ships?
- When was the most recent review/evaluation of the EU policy carried out on the implementation of specific priorities in the marine region in question?

¹ <http://www.enca.com/africa/somalia-piracy-resurfaces>