

**Question for written answer E-005815/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Maria Arena (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Vetting system for peacekeeping missions

The Burundian army is currently undergoing compulsory restructuring which will see it brought under the tighter control of the repressive regime in Bujumbura. As the high rates of pay represent a substantial financial incentive for its soldiers, participation in peacekeeping missions is perceived, and used, as a reward. There is therefore a serious risk that elements of the Burundian armed forces, or even external elements, who have been committing human rights violations since 2015, may now take part in peacekeeping missions.

1. Can the EU push for the establishment of a system for vetting Burundian soldiers and their human rights records for African Union – particularly the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) – and UN peacekeeping missions?
2. Has the EU initiated discussions with the African Union on the gradual replacement of Burundian soldiers within AMISOM?
3. Which countries could gradually take over the Burundian commitment?