

Question for written answer E-006116/2017/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Claude Rolin (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - 'Cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and nuclear disarmament' (NPT, 1968)

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT, 1968) prohibits those States which do not have nuclear weapons from acquiring them. North Korea – which has withdrawn from the Treaty – is believed to have recently tested a hydrogen bomb, and the UN Security Council has imposed sanctions in response. Other non-signatory States such as India, Pakistan and Israel are believed to have acquired the atomic bomb, and signatory countries already in possession of nuclear weapons, which under the NPT are committed to nuclear disarmament, are modernising their nuclear arsenals rather than reducing them.

46 years after its entry into force, Article 6 of the NPT is not being complied with, and in July 2017 the NATO countries failed to support the draft UN treaty on the total abolition of nuclear weapons. Today, an initiative by Austria recalling the urgent need to 'fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons' is supported by more than 100 countries.

This situation and the recent bellicose declarations by Heads of State are very disturbing and contrary to the values advocated by the European Union.

What action will the European Union itself take to promote compliance with the NPT and nuclear de-escalation, in order to safeguard international security?