

**Question for written answer E-000038/2020**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**José Ramón Bauzá Díaz** (Renew)

Subject: Tensions between the United States and Iran running high

Over the last few days tensions between the United States and Iran have escalated significantly. The assassination by the US of the Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, leader of the paramilitary arm of the regime, in retaliation for Iran's attack on the US embassy in Baghdad, is the latest in a series of conflicts between the two countries.

Although it is unclear how Iran plans to respond to the death of such a high profile figure in the country's military, it is highly likely that extreme force will be used to attack the United States and its allies.

If this happens, Iraq will be the scene of renewed violence, perhaps even open war between Tehran and Washington, in an area of particular interest to the European Union where both civilian and military personnel from Member States are present.

In the light of this:

What steps does the Vice-President plan to take in view of the likelihood of increased violence between the United States and Iran, and what will be the effect on the security and mandate of the missions currently deployed by the EU in the region?