

Question for written answer E-004564/2020

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Saudi Arabia and Qatar

On 6 August 2020, it became public knowledge that during an official call between US President Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman on 6 June 2017, the latter presented a proposal to invade Qatar. The US Administration immediately rejected the Saudi proposal and requested formal mediation by the Kuwaiti authorities through the Gulf Cooperation Council.

In such an extreme and volatile region as the Middle East, the potential invasion of the sovereign state of Qatar by its neighbour Saudi Arabia would create an unprecedented level of destabilisation, possibly triggering a full-scale regional conflict with unknown consequences not only for the region, but also for the European Union.

1. Was the European External Action Service aware of Saudi Arabia's intentions to invade Qatar before 6 August 2020?
2. If so, did it actively help to pursue a diplomatic solution and negotiate a Saudi stand-down?
3. Will the VP/HR, with the objective of enabling a pre-emptive peaceful solution, seek to develop active diplomatic engagement to prevent Saudi Arabia taking similar geopolitical actions in the future?