

**Question for written answer E-004762/2020**

**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:** The political situation in Lebanon and the EU's role in a stable Lebanon

Following the double ammonium nitrate explosion at the Port of Beirut on 4 August 2020, the cause of which is currently the subject of an investigation, and following demonstrations by the Lebanese people in the wake of the explosion, Hassan Diab's government resigned on 10 August. This deadly disaster reflects the utter failure of the Lebanese State. Lebanon now faces a political, economic and health crisis. In a delicate geopolitical context, it also needs to find the means to implement thoroughgoing reforms in combating corruption and hyperinflation, as well as dealing with the failure of the traditional political parties and the omnipresent pro-Iranian Hezbollah. Hezbollah, a political movement, is present in Lebanon's parliament and in its government, and dominates the country with its powerful networks and military arsenal. Its armed wing has been included on the EU's list of terrorist organisations since July 2013. Hezbollah laying down its weapons would do much to de-escalate tension in the region. It has been called upon to do so on a number of occasions, including in UN Security Council Resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004), and in the Taif Agreement.

How is the European Union, alongside other members of the international community, intending to take effective action to reduce the influence of Hezbollah and other powerful organisations for the benefit of a democratic, independent Lebanese State?