

**Question for written answer E-005349/2020**

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

Rule 138

**Bart Groothuis** (Renew)

Subject: Alleged Turkish military interference in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict

In the past few days, the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has clearly stated his position of support for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which has flared up since hostilities escalated. The Turkish President tweeted the following statement: 'The Turkish people will support our Azerbaijani brothers with all our means as always'<sup>1</sup>. There is a question as to exactly what 'all our means' implies.

On 28 and 29 September 2020, multiple articles and sources stated that Turkish support to Azerbaijan includes a deployment of (Syrian) fighters and the supply of various offensive military equipment, including weapons, drones and fighter planes<sup>2</sup>.

The supply of arms and the deployment of mercenaries to one side of a foreign conflict by the Turkish State is not a new phenomenon: it has also happened in Syria and Libya. It is of utmost importance that the EU determines as quickly as possible whether these reports are correct, in order to substantiate the common EU position.

1. Can the VP/HR say whether the European External Action Service (EEAS) can confirm the above-mentioned allegations?
2. Has the EEAS reached out to the national intelligence services of the Member States in order to obtain verification and is this part of a standard procedure?
3. Can the VP/HR guarantee that if these allegations are true, the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs will be informed immediately?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/azerbaijan/news/dozens-dead-as-world-leaders-urge-halt-to-azerbaijan-armenia-clashes/1511587/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://euobserver.com/foreign/149573?utm\\_source=euobs&utm\\_medium=email](https://euobserver.com/foreign/149573?utm_source=euobs&utm_medium=email)