

Question for written answer E-005970/2020

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 EU's response to Erdogan's speeches against France

On 16 October 2020, a teacher was beheaded near Paris for having shown cartoons taken from the well-known satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* during a lesson on the freedom of speech and religion. Following the attack, the French rallied together to defend secularism and freedom of expression. However, instead of condemning the terrorist attack, Turkish President Erdogan made unacceptable remarks about President Macron and France. He urged Muslims to boycott French products and claimed 'the West wants to relaunch the crusades', thereby fostering a climate of hatred that could lead to further violence. On 29 October 2020, several terrorist attacks were carried out against France, including the tragic beheading of a 70-year-old woman and the killing of two other people in the Nice Cathedral.

Against the background of President Erdogan's statements:

1. What diplomatic measures will the VP/HR take to defend a Member State and the democratic principles on which the EU is founded?