

Question for written answer E-006330/2020

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: Terrorist threat by an Iranian diplomat

In Belgium on 27 November 2020 will begin the trial of Iranian diplomat Assadollah Assadi, who is charged with planning an attack in 2018 on a rally of the Paris-based National Council of Resistance of Iran, which was attended by high-profile former US, European and Arab officials.

At the time, Mr Assadi was the third counsellor at Iran's embassy in Vienna and, according to French officials, was in charge of intelligence in southern Europe and was acting on orders from Tehran. He is one of the first Iranian diplomats to face trial on terrorism charges in the European Union.

According to the minutes of the interrogation by Belgian police, which were reported by the media, Mr Assadi warned that there will be a retaliation if an unfavourable verdict is returned and informed the Belgian authorities that his case is being closely watched by undisclosed armed groups in Iran and its neighbouring countries.

Is the VP/HR aware of this direct threat by an Iranian diplomat and has he decided to conduct a risk assessment?

Does the VP/HR intend to raise this threat in his dialogue with the Iranian Government?

What measures does the VP/HR plan to take to ensure the security and protection of the EU Member States concerning the above-mentioned threat?