

**Question for written answer E-000680/2021**

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

Rule 138

**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz** (The Left)

Subject: On arms sales

On 27 January 2021 the new US President, Joe Biden, announced a freeze on arms sales to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, a decision that was replicated a few days later by Italy. Prior to this, in December 2020, Germany had announced it would extend for a further year its freeze on armaments sales to Saudi Arabia, in force since October 2018. Stopping these arms sales is crucial to ending the human rights violations committed in the terrible war in Yemen.

1. Will the Vice-President / High Representative push for a joint arms embargo by the 27 on Saudi Arabia?
2. What actions have been taken in the event of EU arms sales to Saudi Arabia following Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on arms sales, firstly through the Vice-President / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and secondly with the Member States in order to ensure their compliance?
3. Are there plans to implement a binding mechanism to strengthen Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on arms sales?