

**Question for written answer E-001328/2021
to the Council**
Rule 138
Pedro Marques (S&D)

Subject: EU and NATO military and defence relations

At the end of the European Council this week its President made reference to the wish to have a “more strategic” and therefore “stronger and more robust” EU in terms of security and defence, which would allow the transatlantic alliance to be strengthened, now that there is a glimmer of hope following the election of President Joe Biden.

After Biden expressly stated that “America is back”, President Charles Michel affirmed that Europe was prepared to be a “strong and reliable partner” while being ready to pave the way for more independence from the US, and to act “strategically to defend its interests and promote its values”.

Given that the US position is clearly different from that which we have witnessed in recent years, how should the EU’s and NATO’s military and defence relations now look in the light of this clearly constructive stance taken by President Biden?