

Question for written answer E-003974/2021

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

Rule 138

Marco Zanni (ID), Marco Campomenosi (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Taliban's request to Turkey to help manage the situation at Kabul airport

Turkish officials have informed international press agencies that the Taliban have requested technical assistance from Turkey to manage the situation at Kabul airport. In fact, President Erdoğan said some months ago that he was willing to maintain a Turkish presence at the airport, if requested.

However, the Taliban do not want the Turkish armed forces – which were part of a NATO mission to Afghanistan – to remain, and say they must leave the country by the end of August.

Turkey must therefore decide whether to provide the assistance requested, in the knowledge that it will not be the Turkish military guaranteeing the safety of those working at the airport.

Can the Vice-President / High Representative state:

1. How he views Turkey's role in this matter;
2. Whether, given Turkey's potential cooperation with the Taliban, he continues to see Turkey as a reliable partner?