

Question for written answer E-005150/2021

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

Rule 138

Stelios Kypouropoulos (PPE)

Subject: Allegations of use of chemical weapons against Kurds by Turkey in northern Iraq

Accusations of human rights violations and the use of chemical weapons against Kurds in the north-eastern region of Iraq are continuously being levelled against Turkey.

International organisations are accusing Turkish military forces of displaying a shameful disregard for human rights and the lives of others, carrying out brutal attacks and committing war crimes that have caused the deaths and injuries among the civilian population.

While no proof yet exists that Turkey is making use of any specific chemical weapon, the effects of its offensive weapons correspond to those of mustard gas (IARC-Volume 9, Supplement 7), which causes biochemical changes in all vital organs.

In view of this:

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy planning call for special UN inspectors to be sent to verify whether or not chemical weapons are being used?
2. Does he intend to step up the provisions of Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/259 of 17 February 2015 in support of activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the framework of the implementation of the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction¹?
3. If the use of such weapons is confirmed, will he seek the imposition of sanctions on Turkey in line with Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1544 of 15 October 2018 concerning restrictive measures against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons in Syria²?

¹ [1] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32015D0259&from=EN>

² [2] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02018D1544-20191016&qid=1602184951232&from=EN>