

Question for written answer E-000179/2023/rev.1

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: Operation Mosi: South African naval drills with Russia and China

On 19 January 2023, South Africa confirmed its plans to conduct joint military exercises with the Russian and Chinese navies off its east coast from February. The South African National Defence Force said the war games, named Operation Mosi, are meant to 'strengthen the already flourishing relations between South Africa, Russia and China'. On Monday 23 January, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, met with the South African Minister of International Relations, Naledi Pandor.

1. Given the Commission's harsh stance on Russia, how will the Vice-President / High Representative convince the South African Government to abandon its decision to cooperate with the Russian and Chinese navies?
2. How does the Vice-President / High Representative assess the risk that this enhanced cooperation, and Operation Mosi in particular, poses for European security?

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