

**Question for written answer E-003040/2023**

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

Rule 138

**Filip De Man (ID)**

**Subject:** Paragliding flight by the EU representative in Gaza in light of recent events

On 17 July 2023, Sven Kühn, EU representative (West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA), made a paragliding flight from the Gaza Strip to show Palestinians the way to freedom. Several reports show that Mr Kühn, using his diplomatic immunity, smuggled his paragliding equipment into Gaza, against all the rules on dual use equipment. The Ambassador in question has now retired.

1. It is particularly cynical that Hamas terrorists used the same equipment as Mr Kühn to attack visitors at a festival. The Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has yet to take an official position regarding this stunt. As part of the recruitment procedure, do the staff supporting the representative on the ground undergo the necessary security screening, focusing on possible sympathies with Hamas, which is linked to the Muslim Brotherhood?
2. Are the support staff regularly debriefed as regards their contacts with local representatives of the Muslim communities?

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