

**Question for oral answer O-000314/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 115

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on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Intelligence and the foiled plot to kill the Saudi Ambassador to the US

US authorities have foiled a plot, allegedly masterminded by elements of the Iranian government, to blow up the Saudi Ambassador to the United States while he was in that country. Should this plot have succeeded, it would have resulted in considerable casualties and loss of life.

US Attorney-General Eric Holder noted that through the diligent and coordinated efforts of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, it was possible to prevent this plot before anyone was harmed. FBI Director Robert Mueller also noted that the investigation leading to these charges illustrates both the challenges and complexities of international threats, and the fact that today it has become easier to bring together the intelligence and law enforcement resources necessary to better identify and prevent such threats, regardless of their origin.

In view of the important role that intelligence gathering and coordination have played in foiling this plot and saving lives, can the Commission:

- look into exchanging best practices as to how intelligence and coordination were used in this case in order to fight terrorism and save lives?
- see whether those best practices can be applied in order to enhance and improve EU instruments in the fight against terrorism?

Tabled: 30.11.2011

Forwarded: 2.12.2011

Deadline for reply: 9.12.2011