

**Question for oral answer O-000021/2020
to the Council**

Rule 136

Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé

on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Repatriation from conflict zones of children of jihadists who are nationals of EU Member States, and the EU's internal security policy

The armed conflict in Iraq and Syria, which started in 2011, has resulted in the departure of many European citizens from their countries to join the ranks of jihadist fighters.

Since 2014 and the appearance of Daesh, their number is estimated to be between 5 000 and 6 000. The fall of the self-proclaimed 'caliphate', located on the territory of Iraq and Syria, at the beginning of 2019 led to the return of European fighters, their families and, therefore, children to the European Union.

Faced with this problem, each Member State decides on the repatriation of children or families according to its own specific criteria, always taking the best interests of the child into account.

However, in some cases, courts require Member States to repatriate some of their nationals.

Once these children have been repatriated to their country of origin, their reintegration and de-radicalisation is a major challenge, especially when they have been repatriated with their radicalised mothers.

Furthermore, in the case of older children, who have been in combat situations or who have been confronted with scenes of appalling violence, the threat they might pose to the internal security of the Union must be assessed and regularly monitored.

Terrorism knows no borders within the European Union, and the various terrorist attacks in recent years have shown that certain operations are prepared simultaneously in several Member States. The internal security of the Union is at stake and may be under threat.

1. In this context, what initiatives does the Council intend to take, with the support of the Commission, in order to safeguard the Union's internal security in the face of this threat in the short and medium term?
2. What specific technical and financial cooperation can be put in place between Member States?

Submitted: 03/03/2020

Lapses: 04/06/2020