

Priority question for written answer P-000916/2022

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

Rule 138

Hannah Neumann (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU exit strategy for a potential withdrawal of the EU Training Mission from Mali

The EU Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali – established in 2013 – is operating in a difficult political environment, yet its impact remains rather limited. The EUTM has continued to provide support to the Malian armed forces despite numerous well-documented cases of its members' involvement in human rights violations. Furthermore, there were putsches in Mali in August 2020 and May 2021. Against this backdrop, Member States, including political leaders of the EUTM's largest contributor, Germany, have questioned whether they should continue to provide support.

Like other EU missions, EUTM Mali employs local staff. Other EU institutions, including those providing development and humanitarian assistance in Mali, rely on local partners. As their employer, the EU bears responsibility for the safety of its local staff, especially those whose lives are at risk due to their current or past working relations with the EU.

Does the EU have an exit strategy for a potential withdrawal of the EUTM from Mali, and how would it ensure the safety of any people in Mali who might be at risk because they previously worked for EU institutions in the country, including the EUTM?