

Priority question for written answer P-000664/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 138
Assita Kanko (ECR)

Subject: Countering Russian influence in Africa

In mid-February 2023, the French armed forces withdrew from Burkina Faso after already having had to do so from the Central African Republic and Mali. Their place was taken by mercenaries from the Russian paramilitary Wagner group. A Russian (dis)information war, in which the intentions of France and the EU have been distorted, made public opinion in these countries ripe for this. Having launched a war of aggression against Ukraine, Russia is now further intensifying its efforts to increase its influence in Africa.

Can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy set out what specific measures the EU is taking to counter these Russian efforts in Africa, to effectively debunk their disinformation, and to improve cooperation with African defence forces, inter alia in the fight against terrorism and the jihadist advance?

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