

Question for written answer E-003893/2021

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

Rule 138

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Subject: Crisis in Afghanistan and role of the European Union

Afghanistan is collapsing. Since the withdrawal of NATO troops the advance of the Taliban is unstoppable. This military offensive runs counter to the commitments made for a negotiated solution to the conflict. Increasing violations of international law and human rights are taking place, in particular against women and children. Even today, according to the UN High Commissioner, over two and a half million Afghans are living in refugee camps between Iran and Pakistan. In addition to that, there are two million internally displaced persons. The current crisis will dramatically increase the number of refugees heading to Europe. In 2020, more than 10% of new asylum seekers in Europe were Afghan nationals.

In addition, Afghanistan continues to be the world's largest producer of opium, the revenue of which goes to finance terrorist organisations.

Against this backdrop:

Does the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to resume talks with the Taliban in order to put an end to the conflict that is destabilising a region that is crucial with regard to the international equilibrium and to ensure a peaceful transition in Afghanistan?

What diplomatic measures does he intend to take to tackle the crisis of migrants fleeing Taliban violence? And lastly:

What steps will he take to prevent the resumption of Islamic terrorism on a global scale?