

**Priority question for written answer P-002704/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 144

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Subject: Restructuring of EEAS Delegations abroad

A recently leaked European External Action Service (EEAS) document presents a plan to oversee a radical restructuring of the EU's presence abroad through its Delegations. While calling for the 'EU to increase its presence globally' in light of the geopolitical environment, the document clearly suggests a drastic reduction in staff numbers, across an unclear set of EU Delegations and expert policy profiles, within the context of new budgetary constraints.

The document states that the EU's presence in 'other countries should be leaner and will be downsized'. It also suggests that the EU should 'prioritise political and sector expertise that reflects the EU's geopolitical priorities and the Commission's specific policy priorities', raising concerns that the restructuring operation will affect technical profiles specialising in development and international cooperation policy.

If approved by the incoming EEAS political leadership, the plan will impact the quality and quantity of Global Gateway and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) projects, which clearly require cooperation expertise on the ground.

1. Which Delegations (in which countries) will see staff reductions, and in what numbers?
2. What specific policy profile will be most affected by staff reductions, and in what numbers?
3. Have other structural solutions been envisaged with regard to the 2 % ceiling?

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