

**Question for written answer E-016045/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Hilde Vautmans (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Article 42(7) [TEU]

On 17 November, European Ministers of Defence responded positively to France's request for activation of the 'solidarity clause' in the TEU. All Member States are displaying a willingness to provide aid and assistance to the French.

1. In view of the vagueness of Article 42(7), could the High Representative herself have made the request for assistance instead of leaving it to France to do so? If so, why did this not happen?
2. The article in question also does not indicate in so many words who is responsible for reviewing supply and demand. Was there, or is there, a role for the High Representative here?
3. How, in other respects, does the High Representative see her role in the organisation of this assistance under Article 42(7)?