

**Question for written answer E-015500/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Alyn Smith (Verts/ALE), Eva Joly (Verts/ALE), Ernest Maragall (Verts/ALE), Jordi Sebastià (Verts/ALE) and Barbara Lochbihler (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Asset recovery in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya: state of play

In the EU-Tunisia Task Force conclusions of 29 September 2011 the EU stated its intention to 'establish an asset recovery support team with experts in Tunis and Brussels to facilitate information sharing with Member States and the Tunisian Government on assets illegally expatriated by the former regime'.

In its resolution of 23 May 2013¹ Parliament expressed its concern at the very limited progress in the return of misappropriated assets and called for 'the establishment without delay of an EU mechanism composed of a team of national and international investigators, prosecutors, lawyers and other experts, with the aim of providing legal and technical advice and assistance to Arab Spring countries in the process of asset recovery'.

1. Could the VP/HR indicate what assets have been recovered by the authorities of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya from the EU Member States since 2011?
2. What steps have been taken in this connection by the Commission and the European External Action Service since the resolution?
3. Could the VP/HR provide information on the state of play of the project 'Supporting Arab Spring countries to implement asset recovery' (worth EUR 2.7 million), in particular as regards the justification for a direct grant to the UN Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and an update on the activities implemented by the contractor to date?

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0224.