

Question for written answer E-003255/2020/rev.1

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

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Subject: Escalation of violence and attacks by extremists in Mozambique

Since October 2017, the province of Cabo Delgado, in the north of Mozambique, has been the target of a series of armed attacks by jihadists who want to impose Islamic law in the region.

It is estimated that the conflict has resulted in the deaths of more than 1 000 people and has forced more than 100 000 others to flee their homes and seek refuge in city centres.

Since it is in the best interests of Europeans and Africans alike to guarantee lasting peace and security in Africa, we would like to ask:

1. How does the Vice-President / High Representative view the escalation of violence in recent months? What action has been taken by the EU and, in particular, the European External Action Service in this regard?
2. Although, as yet, there is no conclusive proof that this radical Islamic movement is linked to Daesh, but given the Sahel region's recent history, to what extent could this violence spill over into neighbouring countries, creating another region of instability and conflict on the African continent, this time in the south?
3. Does he believe that the lack of action by the EU could result in other international stakeholders playing a leading role in the region — a role the EU would like to play?