

**Question for written answer (Priority)
to the President of the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Response to Parliament's Resolution requesting Snowden's protection

The 24th of January 2017, Mike Pompeo, Donald Trump's candidate as director of the CIA, was sworn in by the U.S Senate. The former congressman had called last February for "the traitor Edward Snowden" to be executed. In 2013, Donald Trump had expressed similar remarks alluding to Snowden as a "terrible threat" and "terrible traitor", reminding that in the past, countries would execute those considered traitors.

The European Parliament's resolution of 29 October 2015 on the follow-up to the European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2014 on the electronic mass surveillance of EU citizens called on EU Member States to "drop any criminal charges against Edward Snowden, grant him protection and consequently prevent extradition or rendition by third parties, in recognition of his status as whistleblower and international human rights defender". The activities of Mr. Snowden have greatly helped US and European citizens to finally have access to transparent information, which is a core element of democracy.

Given the gravity of the US statements and the deteriorating political climate surrounding Snowden's case, which steps does the Council of Ministers intend to take in order to urge its members to respond to the recommendations enshrined in the Parliament's resolution?