

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002508/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(23 June 2025)

Subject: The Commission and the Coalition of the Willing

In February 2025, I addressed a question to the Commission regarding the participation of the Commission President in the summit of the Coalition of the Willing in Paris. In the answer of May 2025, I was informed that the President of the Commission is responsible for ensuring the external representation of the EU and that the invitation to participate underscores the Commission's distinct and important role in these discussions ⁽¹⁾.

In light of the above:

1. How did the personal participation of the Commission President in the meetings of the Coalition of the Willing benefit the EU and all its Member States?
2. What tangible results (not just declarations and promises) have the meetings and activities of the Coalition of the Willing attended by the Commission representative produced?
3. Does the Commission not consider participation in events to which only some Member States are invited to be polarising and potentially dangerous, given the potential of such participation to sow division within the EU?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(12 August 2025)

President von der Leyen attended the meetings of the Coalition of the Willing in her capacity as President of the European Commission.

Discussions at the meetings touched upon matters related to the EU's defence industry as well as supporting collaborative research and development of defence projects among Member States. These issues fall within the scope of competences of the Commission.

The Commission, as the Honourable Member knows, plays a crucial role in assisting Member States to boost their investment in defence and developing their defence industries — a prerequisite for any militarily capable Europe — as well as in providing assistance to Ukraine.

Following the latest Coalition of the Willing meeting, which took place on 10 July 2025, leaders agreed, among other things, to step up action against Russia's war economy, and to continue to support Ukraine financially and militarily.

The leaders also welcomed the development of mature operational plans to deploy a reassurance force — the Multinational Force Ukraine — once hostilities have ceased, and the establishment of a United Kingdom/France-led operational headquarters to support planning activity. They also supported further peace talks between Ukraine and Russia.

As was emphasised in the previous reply (E-000729/2025), the President of the Commission is responsible for ensuring the external representation of the EU when matters fall outside the scope of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and relate to other EU policy fields (Article 17, paragraph 1, of the Treaty on European Union).

The participation of the President of the Commission safeguards unity by contributing to outcomes in a way that reflects the values, interests and legal commitments of the EU and by ensuring that all Member States are kept informed about the ongoing developments.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-000729-ASW_EN.html