

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001007/26
to the Commission
Angelika Winzig (PPE)
(11 March 2026)**

Subject: Strategic protection of maritime trade routes in the Red Sea and combating systemic risks posed by digital extremism

The security of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait is of vital importance to European supply chains. Attacks on shipping by Houthi militias, geopolitical shifts in southern Yemen and the digital dissemination of extremist narratives are putting security of supply and competitiveness at considerable risk.

1. How does the Commission assess the impact of the current shifts in power on the security of shipping in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and what specific measures does it plan to take to secure European supply chains against disruptions and cost increases?
2. To what extent does the Commission intend to deepen its cooperation with regional partners in order to curb Houthi militia attacks and resolutely tackle extremist networks, including the Muslim Brotherhood?
3. What action is the Commission taking against platform operators under the Digital Services Act in order to minimise the algorithmic amplification of extremist narratives in the context of the Yemen conflict, and how are risk assessments and remedial measures being monitored?

Submitted: 11.3.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(11 May 2026)**

The EU has a principled stance on freedom of navigation, in line with international law. It urges all involved in the conflict to fully ensure a toll-free and safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz. The closure of the strait disrupts the global economy and threatens global energy and food security.

The EU is engaged in the region through operation EUNAVFOR ASPIDES ensuring safe passage through the Red Sea. Its extended mandate ⁽¹⁾ until 28 February 2027 comprises strengthening links with other EU initiatives, including (CRIMARIO) ⁽²⁾, the EU's critical maritime routes project, and collecting and sharing information on suspicious activities related to critical submarine infrastructure. It further contributes to capacity building by training Djiboutian maritime forces and by cooperating with the Yemeni Coast Guard.

The first summit between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council in October 2024 highlighted the joint commitment to freedom of navigation and maritime security in the Red Sea ⁽³⁾.

The EU implements the UN sanctions on Yemen through its Council Decision 2014/932 ⁽⁴⁾. In 2024, the EU designated individuals and entities for their support to the Houthis under its sanction regime regarding Iran's military support to armed groups and entities in the Middle East and the Red Sea region ⁽⁵⁾.

The EU monitors the evolving risks linked to organisations trying to unduly influence democratic institutions, including radical and extremist non-state actors, as well as interference from third countries.

The Digital Services Act (DSA) ⁽⁶⁾ requires providers of very large online platforms and search engines to diligently identify, assess, and mitigate systemic risks on their services, including the risk of dissemination of terrorist content.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202600439.

⁽²⁾ <https://crimario.eu/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/k3wf2ewp/eu-gcc-joint-statement-final-2.pdf>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014D0932>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02023D1532-20241118>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.