



**Alyn Smith MEP**

Member of the European Parliament for Scotland  
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3rd September 2014

Our Ref: AFET/01ISA

**When replying please reply to: Brussels**

Baroness Ashton  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
European Commission  
*par navette*

Dear High Representative,

### **Iraq's conflict oil**

I am writing to express my concern over reported sales of conflict oil by the organisation calling itself "Islamic State" (IS) in northern Iraq.

In particular, I am concerned by reports of systematic sanctions busting - involving EU states - allowing IS to sell considerable amounts of oil for around USD12 per barrel. The money raised funds their activities and purchase of more arms and military equipment. This is in clear breach of international sanctions.

Ms Jana Hybášková, EU Head of the Delegation to Iraq, gave evidence during yesterday's meeting of AFET Committee which should serve as a warning call in respect of conflict oil trade and IS funding streams. The suspicion voiced by her that some EU states are not looking hard enough at where oil is coming from is deeply concerning.

The EU must ensure that oil imports by its member states are not inadvertently fanning the flames of conflagration. Similarly, the EU, as a whole, has considerable economic power and should intervene in the trade to increase pressure on third countries purchasing conflict oil.

I hope you will agree that the EU should and must react to possible sanctions busting by its member states and that it is not beyond our power to ensure that proper sanctions are applied and companies, traders and/or intermediaries involved in direct or indirect funding of IS should be named, shamed and face appropriate legal action.

I would appreciate an update from your services on what is being done to push for such a conclusion and I look forward to receiving your reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours aye,

**Alyn Smith MEP**

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