

**Question for written answer E-012414/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Justas Vincas Paleckis (S&D)**

Subject: Georgia's territorial integrity

The greatest difficulty currently facing Georgia as it seeks EU integration concerns Russian occupied Georgian territories. Recently the new Georgian Government has sought to improve relations with Moscow. It has appointed a special representative for relations with Russia. Furthermore, it has decided not to boycott the Sochi Olympic Games and Russian citizens no longer require visas in order to travel to Georgia. Russia, in turn, has abolished certain restrictions that it had introduced and applied to Georgian goods. However, it has yet to implement the terms of the armistice concerning the withdrawal of its forces from the occupied territories, and emplacements are still being constructed along the border with these territories. The only international EU Monitoring Mission is currently operating in Georgia and is being denied access to the occupied territories. The election of the new Georgian President who is inclined to avoid confrontation offers new hope for better mutual understanding on the issue of the occupied territories.

What actions does the Commission and the External Action Service intend to take in order to take advantage of the changes in Georgia's leadership and to speed up the process, bridging the gap regarding the occupied territories?