

**Question for written answer E-006700/2014/rev.1  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Davor Škrlec (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Transboundary pollution in Croatia originating in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution was signed in 1979, and Croatia has been a party to it since 8 October 1991. The aim of the Convention is to reduce air pollutant emissions at global level, and that includes Croatia.

The people of Slavonski Brod, however, have been exposed for many years to the harmful effect of a refinery in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina. The refinery concerned is situated in the town of Brod and owned by the Russian company Zarubežneft. The measuring station at Slavonski Brod measures concentrations of the following pollutants: SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, and benzene. Within the past two months it has, on as many as 12 days, recorded hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) concentrations many times higher than normal.

Given that Bosnia and Herzegovina has not ratified the association agreement with the EU:

1. How does the High Representative propose to resolve the environmental problem that transboundary air pollution is causing for Croatia, now an EU Member State?
2. Does she think that the solution might lie in an operating ban to shut down the Russian-owned refinery, especially now that sanctions are being imposed because of the current political situation?
3. For health and environmental reasons, a practical solution has to be found. Will Ambassador Peter Sorensen, Head of the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU's Special Representative, make use of his authority to help seek such a solution?