

Question for written answer E-006777/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Charles Tannock (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - NGO activity in Azerbaijan

The past few months have seen a number of NGOs in Azerbaijan targeted by the authorities in a bid to curb their activities. Those associated with promoting democracy, the rule of law and media freedom appear to be at particular risk. High-profile examples of such NGOs include Oxfam, the National Democratic Institute, Transparency International and IREX, all of which have had their bank assets frozen.

In the case of IREX, its bank assets in Azerbaijan were frozen on 31 July before its Baku offices were investigated on 5 September. This investigation resulted in the security officers confiscating documents and computers.

1. What representations has the High Representative made to the Azerbaijani authorities on this human rights matter?
2. What implications does the High Representative believe this will have for the EU's continued negotiations with Azerbaijan on the conclusion of an Association Agreement?
3. Have the NGOs concerned made any representations to the EEAS regarding this situation, and if so, what – if any – actions have been taken in response to these?