

**Question for written answer E-006950/2014**

**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL) and Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Manoeuvres in Ukraine

The Spanish frigate F-102, based in the port of Ferrol (Galicia), is taking part in Spanish-supported NATO military exercises close to the Russian border, within the context of the present conflict in Ukraine.

From 16-26 September 2014, some 1 300 soldiers from 15 states, (most of them within the EU and including Spain) are taking part in manoeuvres in the Ukrainian city of Yavoriv, organised by the United States as part of the 'Rapid Trident' exercise involving its forces in Europe.

At the same time, NATO has just decided to rearm itself in Eastern Europe with a rapid intervention force. Spain and the EU are also sending arms to the conflict area and are even donating military equipment to Ukraine, requiring the Member States to gradually increase their respective defence budgets in the midst of an economic crisis and at a time when the majority of the population is suffering the impact of budget cuts and austerity policies.

1. Does the Commission see increased pressure, an arms build-up and threats as the best way to reduce tension in the region?
2. Does the Commission not think that in order to help solve the EU-instigated conflict in Ukraine, the manoeuvres taking place in the region need to be called off?
3. Does the Commission think that these actions will help to promote peace in Europe and the rest of the world?