

Question for written answer E-008678/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Use of chemical weapons in Ukraine

Recent investigations have shown that the Ukrainian army has been using banned weapons against civilians in Ukraine. Specifically, there are reports of firebombs containing white phosphorus being used around Donetsk, Luhansk, Semenivka, Lysychansk, Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. White phosphorus can cause severe, permanent injuries and, in many cases, it can kill.

The reports focus on the fact that these weapons are being deliberately used against civilians, as there are no military facilities in the areas concerned.

Is the High Representative aware that such weapons are being used in Ukraine?

If it is confirmed that white phosphorus is being used against civilians, would the High Representative consider suspending the Association Agreement recently ratified with Ukraine?

Taking into account its use against civilians in recent conflicts (in Iraq in 2004, and in Gaza on a number of occasions by the Israeli army), does the High Representative consider white phosphorus to be a chemical weapon in accordance with the definitions set out in the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention?