

**Question for written answer E-010277/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - EU-Russia relations

According to analysts, Russian President Vladimir Putin's State of the Union speech at the Kremlin will do little to reduce tensions with the West. Russia will not negotiate on Crimean reunification with Ukraine. However, with the Russian economy suffering as a result of Western sanctions and cheaper oil, Putin will be looking to bring much-needed capital back to Russia in 2015. He will want to keep Russia's options open for a return to improved relations with the West, but will actively pursue a balanced foreign policy. Russia's economic concerns will grow in 2015.

The crisis with the EU is affecting European farmers, as Russia is the second-largest export market for EU agricultural products.

What action will the Vice-President / High Representative take to de-escalate the crisis with Russia?