

**Question for written answer E-000467/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Increased Russian presence in the Arctic

Russia is to have 14 operational airfields in the Arctic by the end of the year, state media quoted defence officials as saying on 13 January 2015.

According to state-controlled news agency *Sputnik*, Deputy Defence Minister Dmitry Bulgakov is reported to have said that 10 airfields will be constructed by the end of 2015, in addition to the four which are already in use.

The report did not disclose the location of these airfields, and neither did it clarify whether they would be reopened Soviet-era installations or built from scratch.

On a separate occasion, Russia announced that it will boost its military capabilities in the annexed Crimea region and in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad.

NATO recently warned that no other country has better prepared its forces for operations in the region.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the massively increased Russian presence in the Arctic over recent years?
2. What is her opinion on this important development?