

**Question for written answer E-002665/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Urmas Paet (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Relations with Russia

In response to Russia's annexation in Crimea a year ago, the European Union decided to put on ice certain types of relations with Russia. On the whole, that was unquestionably justified. However, bearing in mind, for example, the recent meetings in Minsk and also the solution of day-to-day problems, it would clearly be more correct if the European Union and its External Action Service were also to represent the EU and all the Member States in relations with Russia, rather than having various countries conduct these relations bilaterally.

To what extent do plans exist for restoring relations between the EU and Russia?

Does not the VP/HR consider that it would be in the interests of the EU's common foreign policy if, at this delicate juncture, relations with Russia were conducted primarily by the EU and its External Action Service and not so much by the Member States acting bilaterally?

What is the VP/HR's assessment of the situation of those EU Member States whose bilateral relations with Russia are minimal, with reference to the tense security situation which has arisen in Europe?