

**Question for written answer E-002906/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Enrico Gasbarra (S&D)

Subject: The Navalny case

On Sunday 15 February, Russian blogger and human rights defender Alexei Navalny was arrested after having been sentenced to house arrest a few weeks before. This development further deepened the European Parliament's concerns, which it had expressed in its resolution dated 15 January 2015, regarding the ongoing wave of attacks against organisations working in the human rights sector and independent civil society groups in Russia.

What measures also in light of this recent arrest, does the Commission intend to adopt, with regard to the ongoing programming phase for EU financial instruments, to increase its financial assistance to Russian civil society through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and also the funding allocated to civil society and local government organisations?

Does the Commission intend to include the EU-Russia Civil Society Forum in the Partnership Instrument in order to ensure sustainable and credible long-term assistance?