

**Question for written answer E-003691/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Azerbaijan's application to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Azerbaijan has applied for observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). This decision is suggestive of a shift in Azerbaijan's orientation, from the West to the East. The Azerbaijani Government's recent criticism of the United States and of the EU reinforces that impression.

Azerbaijan's SCO application is therefore probably both a warning to the West and an effort to realign the country in defence terms between a newly aggressive Russia, a potentially threatening Iran and a West that has begun to be more demanding of conformity with agreements on democracy and human rights.

What is the position of the Vice-President / High Representative on the recent Azerbaijani application for observer status in the SCO?