

Question for written answer E-004056/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Extradition of Kazakh opposition activist Mukhtar Ablyazov

On 4 March 2015, the French Supreme Court upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal of Lyon in which it approved the extradition of Mukhtar Ablyazov from France to Ukraine or Russia, giving priority to the latter. It is now up to the French Government to take the final decision.

Ablyazov is one of the main representatives of the opposition to the current Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev. He has been a vocal critic of the current authoritarian regime for years now. It is clear that, in light of recent developments, neither Russia nor Ukraine can be considered credible countries where Ablyazov can count on a fair trial and have his safety ensured. There is a high risk he would be further sent to Kazakhstan.

1. Is the VP/HR monitoring the case and in contact with the French authorities in this regard?
2. Will the External Action Service put diplomatic pressure on Member States in order to ensure that the lives of third-country citizens who have received protection in one Member State (in this case the UK) are not put at risk by another Member State detaining and extraditing such citizens to non-democratic regimes?
3. Does the VP/HR support the harmonisation of criminal law in EU legislation?