

**Question for written answer E-005121/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**José Inácio Faria (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Alliance agreement between Russia and South Ossetia

On 18 March, coinciding with the first anniversary of the annexation of Crimea, Russia and South Ossetia signed a treaty of alliance and integration, whereby Moscow takes responsibility for the defence and security of the separatist Georgian republic.

This document, which has not been recognised by NATO, includes a collective security clause, whereby, should one of the parties be subject to aggression from another country or armed group, the other will consider it to be aggression against its own territory.

Given that, in 2008, the EU condemned Russian recognition of the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, what is the High Representative's reaction to this agreement, which once again threatens respect for Georgia's sovereignty within its internationally recognised borders, as well as security and stability in the region?