

**Question for written answer E-006184/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: VP/HR - Nordic defence cooperation

In a joint article, the Finnish, Swedish, Danish, Icelandic and Norwegian defence ministers last week called Russia's conduct in Ukraine 'the gravest challenge to European security'; said the region must prepare for possible crises; and announced plans for information-sharing, joint exercises and mutual base access, and to explore a possible air-police mission and joint acquisitions.

Russia's behaviour in Ukraine is prompting stepped-up defence readiness and cooperation in the Nordic region, as it is in Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltic states. Finland and Sweden are moving towards closer relations with NATO.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said that the enhanced Nordic defence cooperation announced last week was 'confrontational' and directed against Russia. Moscow expressed particular concern that neutral states Finland and Sweden were increasingly 'converging' with NATO.

Is the VP/HR aware of these developments?

What actions does the VP/HR intend to take in order to de-escalate this new crisis?