

**Question for written answer E-008002/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Eastern Partnership - need for a new start

In October 2009, the EU signed the Eastern Partnership agreement with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

The aim of the partnership was to strengthen political, economic and cultural ties between the EU and its Eastern neighbours. It was also designed to encourage countries in that part of the world to uphold human rights.

Results have been mixed, however, as demonstrated by the Ukrainian crisis, Armenia's decision to join the Russian Customs Union and the repressive measures taken by the Azerbaijan Government against civil society groups.

1. Do the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission intend to review their policies towards and their cooperation with the aforementioned countries?
2. How can the EU more effectively support activists defending democracy and human rights in those countries?