

**Question for written answer E-010069/2015
to the Council**
Rule 130
Ivan Jakovčić (ALDE)

Subject: Belarus and the Eastern Partnership

Since 2012, the EU has been committed to a policy of critical engagement towards Belarus. The country is included in the European Neighbourhood Policy and is a member of the Eastern Partnership initiative. Social inclusion is one of the priority areas for EU assistance to Belarus.

In the light of recent Belarusian legislation, which imposes fines for being unemployed, and of the decision by a Belarusian court to further punish former presidential candidate Mikola Statkevich, the Council is asked to answer the following questions:

- Does the EU intend to develop a communication strategy aimed at assisting Belarus with democratisation?
- Does the EU intend to draw up an action plan and to activate a bilateral track for Belarus within the Eastern Partnership?
- What is the state of play of the negotiations on a readmission agreement, launched in January 2014?