

**Question for written answer E-012867/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jiří Maštálka (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Improving relations with the Russian Federation

The 24th annual OSCE summit took place this summer in Helsinki, Finland's capital. The Finnish authorities, however, prevented some members of the Russian parliamentary delegation from taking part. In protest against this, the entire Russian delegation refused to attend the Helsinki summit.

In this context, how does the Commission intend to find a path to improving relations with the Russian Federation which are, as we know, of vital importance to both sides in spite of the current difficulties?

Why is the EU/Commission wasting opportunities such as the one undoubtedly represented by the annual OSCE summit marking the 40th anniversary of the organisation's existence?

How will the Commission explain such actions to EU citizens, who are ultimately the ones most harmed by them and by the economic impact of the sanctions imposed against Russia?