

**Question for written answer E-002584/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Marie-Christine Arnautu (ENF)

Subject: Dutch referendum and crisis in the Ukraine

On 6 April 2016, the Dutch people will vote in a referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which has become the subject of controversy since the coup d'état which led to the fall of President Viktor Yanukovich and the conflict that followed between pro-Russian and pro-western forces, to the great detriment of most of the Ukrainian population.

At the time of the protests in Maidan Square, many European leaders and media outlets were constantly denouncing the corruption and lack of justice in the 'Yanukovich regime'. Yet the situation under the current government is hardly any brighter; in fact, it is worse. The authorities at the head of corrupt administrations are leading the country to bankruptcy. The standard of living is not improving and remains well below standards in Poland or Russia. The sustainable implementation of the peace process in the Donbas has failed, with each side accusing the other of violating the Minsk agreements, of not respecting the ceasefire and of wanting to organise elections in the Donbas exclusively on their own terms.

Does the Commission intend to support a 'no' result in the Dutch referendum, which is likely, as an effective means of applying pressure on the Ukrainian Government to finally enter into real reforms?