

**Question for written answer E-002971/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights situation in Crimea

The status of disputed entities in eastern Europe is the source of serious human rights violations, and the victims have no access to justice. There are five such territories, since the illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia. In order to remedy the legal vacuum, and in view of the danger of the situation spreading, the international community should settle these conflicts without delay, taking the protection of human rights as the basis for such settlements. The judicial systems of the entities concerned are deficient, dependent or corrupt, and the international human rights mechanisms are unavailable. As the entities are not recognised by the whole of the international community, they cannot ratify the international human rights conventions.

What is the VP/HR's opinion on the conflict settlement process, starting with the protection of human rights and support to civil society and human rights defenders?