

**Question for written answer E-004409/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jiří Maštálka (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Commission President's mandate to attend economic forum in Saint Petersburg

There have been media reports stating that the President of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, is planning to attend the Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum, which is set to take place on 16 June 2016. If his journey goes ahead, it will be the first visit of the head of any EU institution to Russia since 2014, when EU-Russian relations deteriorated. In this connection, I should like to put the following questions:

- What mandate does Jean-Claude Juncker have to travel to Russia?
- Does his visit signify a breakthrough in EU-Russian relations?
- Is the EU considering not extending sanctions, which are set to expire in mid-2016?