

**Question for written answer E-002545/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Internal political situation in Ukraine

Ukraine's President Poroshenko has put a bill before the Ukrainian Supreme Council (i.e. Parliament) under urgent procedure to make dual citizenship an offence. The Supreme Council has approved it at first reading, and it will mean that any Ukrainian citizen who voluntarily takes the citizenship of another country will be stripped of his Ukrainian citizenship. The legislation is not to apply to those living in the Russian-occupied Crimean peninsula or to residents of Donetsk and Luhansk who have acquired Russian citizenship. Ukraine's Constitution only recognises one citizenship, but at the same time the laws currently do not forbid or penalise multiple citizenship. An exception to this is Article 19 of the Public Service Law, under which people who have the citizenship of another country in addition to Ukrainian citizenship are not permitted to apply for civil service posts. Article 25 of the Constitution stipulates that nobody may deprive citizens of their citizenship against their will. Thus the bill put before the Supreme Council, apart from the fact that it would deprive several hundreds of thousands of citizens of their Ukrainian citizenship, is unconstitutional.

The bill has caused serious tensions in Ukrainian society, which already faces many problems, and it is not appropriate in a country where a state of war and an economic crisis exist. More than a hundred countries around the world have introduced a practice whereby their citizens are permitted to be citizens of other countries as well, so it is impossible to understand why, in the present situation in Ukraine and at precisely this time, there should be a desire to use this subject to launch a 'witch hunt'.

Is it acceptable that several hundred thousand people in Ukraine should become stateless against their will?

How could the Commission influence events so as to reduce tensions?