

Question for written answer E-004623/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
Udo Voigt (NI)

Subject: Possible denial of due process in the trial of Ex-President Viktor Yanukovych of Ukraine

For the past few months the former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych has been on trial at a Kiev district court for alleged high treason. Now that the procedural formalities have been dealt with, the trial hearing proper has begun. The defendant himself is not present in court. He has stated that the proceedings in Kiev violate basic principles and rules of law and justice and are failing to comply with internationally accepted procedural standards. Neither the defendant nor the witnesses whom he has called to testify have been heard so much as once during the trial so far, not even via a videoconferencing connection. Nor was Yanukovych questioned by the Ukrainian prosecution authorities before the charges were brought. Furthermore, the current Ukrainian President, Petro Poroshenko, is throwing his weight behind a bill whereby Yanukovych could be convicted, even *in absentia*.

1. How does the Commission judge the proceedings against the former Ukrainian President from the point of view of law and justice?
2. Does the Commission or any of Parliament's committees responsible for legal affairs (DROI, JURI, LIBE) have observers attending the Yanukovych trial?
3. What efforts is the Commission making to ensure that the trial of Viktor Yanukovych is conducted in accordance with the normal legal and human rights standards?