

**Question for written answer E-002862/2019  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 138  
**Maria Arena (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Human rights violations in Crimea

Following the occupation of Crimea in 2014, freedom of expression on the peninsula has deteriorated significantly. Different tools are being used to silence dissent, including administrative harassment and criminal prosecution, physical attacks, threats and a ban on alternative sources of information.

Since March 2014, the EU has 'imposed restrictive measures against Russia. The measures were adopted in response to the illegal annexation of Crimea and the deliberate destabilisation of Ukraine'<sup>1</sup>. As the current sanctions only cover the illegal annexation of Crimea, the human rights violations taking place on the peninsula by occupying powers remain unaddressed and unnoticed by the international community.

Will the VP/HR consider imposing additional sanctions on Russia for violations of human rights in occupied Crimea?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/ukraine-crisis/>