

**Question for written answer P-000908/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Human rights situation and media freedoms in Azerbaijan

Parliament has repeatedly expressed its serious concerns over the increasing infringement of media freedoms and of the space for public debate and civil society in Azerbaijan. The nearly 100 political prisoners currently detained, as well as the continuing arrests and intimidation, illustrate the lack of compliance with fundamental, mutually agreed aspects of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

1. How has the EU's policy on Azerbaijan changed since this unprecedented crackdown on human rights, and is this not the right moment to apply the less-for-less principle?
2. How does the Commission ensure that EU funding is no longer provided to government-operated NGOs, thereby legitimising the regime, and that it supports real human rights activists and organisations instead?
3. What action has the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan taken to secure the release of political prisoners, for example by requesting access to prisoners or filing an official complaint about the lack of such access?