

Question for written answer P-012605/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Andi Cristea (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Additional communication staff in the EU delegations to the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia

Successive resolutions by the European Parliament in the latest parliamentary term, including those on the situation in Ukraine and the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy, have underlined the need for additional communication efforts in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood in order to challenge Russian propaganda and ongoing disinformation campaigns. These resolutions have called for the development of a comprehensive, effective and systematic communication strategy, while also stressing the importance of promoting objective, independent and impartial information and thus addressing issues related to the media environment, freedom of the media and freedom of expression.

Taking into account that particular countries, notably the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia, are increasingly being exposed to extreme pressure, and considering the European Council's March 2015 conclusions and the subsequent Action Plan presented by the High Representative in June 2015, how will the EU delegations in the three countries in question deal with this unprecedented challenge? More specifically, how will this acknowledged priority be reflected in the staff composition of the three EU delegations and their respective communication teams? Are there any current plans for human resources consolidation in order to engage actively, effectively and successfully in loco with a bold EU communication strategy?