

Question for written answer P-005963/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Adam Szejnfeld (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Attack by Russian armed forces on Ukrainian vessels in the Sea of Azov

Since March 2014, we have seen the illegal annexation of Crimea and the intentional destabilisation of the situation in Eastern Ukraine by Russia. As if that were not enough, on 25 November 2018 a highly dangerous incident took place on the Kerch Strait, where three Ukrainian navy vessels were first fired upon and then seized by Russian special forces. The situation should be considered extremely serious, given that this is the first time the normal Russian troops have carried out an attack. A little while back, Russia waged an undeclared 'hybrid' war with the help of 'little green men', or separatists, in uniforms that bore no military or national marks or symbols.

Given that Russia's recent actions pose a threat not only to Ukraine but also to its neighbours, EU Member States and Europe as a whole, what is the Commission's view on the situation and what action is it planning to take to bring peace and political stability in relations between Russia and Ukraine as quickly as possible?