

**Question for written answer E-5460/2010
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Abolition of EU envoys to Moldova and the South Caucasus

According to recent information from the Commission, there are plans to abolish two EU envoy posts: to the South Caucasus and Moldova. Given the importance of these envoys and the crucial role they have been playing as EU representatives, this decision raises serious doubts as to the future implementation and effectiveness of EU policy in the region.

In 2008, after the Russian invasion of Georgia, ceasefire terms were successfully negotiated with the help of EU diplomacy. It is a key obligation of the EU to ensure that Russia complies with those terms. The other issue is to find a solution to the frozen conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno Karabakh. These issues obviously require a constant political presence by the EU, which has so far been the job of the EU envoy. Therefore, abolishing the envoy to the South Caucasus could send out a dangerous signal that Europe might already be disengaging from the region.

Similarly, Moldova is a key European interest. The country and its citizens have made a huge pro-European effort, against the background of another frozen conflict – that in the Transnistrian region. Here, too, it is clear that abolishing the EU envoy to the region might jeopardise European interests.

In view of the situation described above, could the Commission indicate the reasons for the decision to abolish envoys from such vital and difficult regions. We would request the withdrawal of such plans as they create the impression that the EU is gradually losing interest in the regions in question.