

**Question for written answer E-010863/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Jaroslav Paška (EFD), Rolandas Paksas (EFD) and Juozas Imbrasas (EFD)

Subject: VP/HR - Arrest of the Slovak Ambassador to Ethiopia and EU efforts to secure his release

On 5 November 2011, the Ethiopian security forces arrested, without grounds, the Slovak Ambassador to Ethiopia. He was held for two days in a cell without being allowed to notify his family or the Slovak authorities.

The Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs has pointed out that the behaviour of the Ethiopian authorities was a gross violation of diplomatic agreements, in particular of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Poland, as the current holder of the Presidency of the EU Council, helped to ensure that the Slovak Ambassador was released after being held for two days.

The EU delegation in Ethiopia also took part in the efforts to secure his release. In view of this, Slovakia has sent a letter of thanks to the head of the European External Action Service, Catherine Ashton.

Have the EU and its external action service made plans for an effective mechanism for providing coordinated EU assistance to individual Member States, so as to enable them to protect their diplomatic missions in such cases?