

**Question for written answer E-011597/2012  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)  
Rule 117  
Piotr Borys (PPE)**

**Subject:** VP/HR - Arrest warrant issued against yet another politician in connection with the events in Zhanaozen and the intensified persecution of 'Alga!' party members in Kazakhstan

On 11 December 2012, the municipal court in Aktau, Kazakhstan, issued an arrest warrant against Muratbek Ketebayev, a human rights activist and opposition politician who is currently living in political exile in Poland. The warrant was issued on the basis of the following charges:

- Article 235(1): Establishing and running a criminal organisation with a view to committing one or more crimes;
- Article 170(2): Calling, through the media or an organised group, for the overthrow of the constitutional order;
- Article 164(3): Incitement to social hatred with major consequences.

Muratbek Ketebayev serves as vice-chairman of the coordination committee of the 'Alga!' opposition party. He is also the founder and president of the 'Active Citizens' foundation. In 2011 and 2012, Mr Ketebayev was a frequent guest at the European Parliament, where he took part in public hearings – including the DROI and DCAS forum – and in conferences focusing on human rights and the developmental challenges facing Kazakhstan, events to which I gave my personal patronage.

The charges brought against him are the same ones brought against other opposition leaders and community activists in Kazakhstan, and their political nature has been corroborated by statements from organisations defending human rights, such as Freedom House, Human Rights Watch and Front Line Defenders. This has also been corroborated by the statement given by the spokesperson for the High Representative on 9 October 2012 and the EP resolutions of 15 March 2012 and 22 November 2012. Despite the protestations of the international community, the leader of the main opposition party, Vladimir Kozlov, was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment and confiscation of property on 8 October 2012. The politically motivated trial was accompanied by numerous violations of the rights of the accused, who was detained in inhumane conditions.

1. How did the Vice-President/High Representative broach the subject of Vladimir Kozlov's imprisonment during her last visit?
2. What steps does the VP/HR intend to take in this regard, given that attempts are being made to deprive yet another person who is active in the forum of the EU institutions of his freedom in connection with the tragic events of Zhanaozen?
3. What recommendations will the VP/HR make to the Kazakh and Polish Governments concerning the expected extradition request for Muratbek Ketebayev?