

**Question for written answer E-002437/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Mongolia and European recognition

A country with 2.8 million inhabitants landlocked between China and Russia, a former satellite of the Soviet Union, Mongolia held its first pluralist elections in 1992. It is a country which has made a significant journey towards healthy democracy, with the support of leaders interested in improving the quality of life of their people. However, even more importantly, Mongolia has become a vibrant and stable democracy in a region where conflicts and conquests have been widespread across the ages.

The Mongolian people are active participants in the democratic process, which contributes greatly to the political stability of a country that does what is needed to improve its international relations and thereby integrate with the rest of the world.

As further proof of their progress and openness, the last report by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/Aids (UNAIDS) welcomes the recent law reforms in Mongolia that have removed all travel restrictions and other discriminatory provisions for people living with HIV.

Mongolia's reforms also removed employment restrictions that prevented people living with HIV from undertaking certain jobs, particularly in the food industry. The new law has also encouraged the creation of a multi-sectorial body comprised of government, civil society and private sector representatives to help put in place the reforms.

1. At a time when the Commission is proposing new trade agreements with various Asian countries, does it intend to enter into new transactions, bilateral agreements or exchanges with Mongolia?
2. In order to consolidate Europe's benevolence towards Mongolia, for all of the reasons mentioned above, is the Commission considering establishing a permanent representation to Ulan Bator or any greater official presence?