

**Question for written answer E-004534/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Federalisation of Ukraine

Last week, Russia proposed a solution to federalise Ukraine in order to bring an end to the crisis in the country. Moscow says that this would help to ease the tensions that have dominated the regions in the south and the east that are closely linked to Russia culturally and economically. Ukraine has officially rejected Russia's proposal, calling on Moscow to stop 'lecturing' it and to concentrate on its own problems.

Indeed, Ukrainian authorities are fearful of a new invasion and a repetition of the scenes three weeks ago that led to the loss of Crimea.

According to expert Vadym Karassiov, federalisation would constitute a surreptitious attempt to divide the country, which would, given the geography of Ukraine, lead to a situation in which the regions in the west would come under the protection of the West and those in east would fall under Russia's influence.

1. What does the Vice-President/High Representative think of Russia's proposal of and Ukraine's response to federalising the country? Would this solution be worth contemplating or, conversely, should it be ruled out?
2. If this solution were to be contemplated, what risks does the Vice-President/High Representative believe exist in terms of Russian domination of Ukraine?
3. If this option were to be ruled out, what solutions does the Vice-President/High Representative believe could be considered? Does the Vice-President/High Representative believe that a certain degree of local autonomy or even administrative reforms would be appropriate responses to the political situation in the country?