

**Question for written answer E-004546/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris (PPE) and Oreste Rossi (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - Creation of an ad hoc commission to judge magistrates accused of issuing political sentences in Ukraine

The Ukrainian Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, has recently passed a law laying down a new set of disciplinary sanctions, including dismissal, for judges accused by survivors of the protests in Independence Square and later found guilty of having made politically motivated rulings during the presidency of the former Ukrainian President. The new law states that magistrates shall be judged by a temporary ad hoc commission comprising 15 members.

Of Ukraine's 450 Members of Parliament, a little more than half were present for the vote: 247 MPs, the vast majority of whom (234) voted in favour of the new law.

The rights to a fair trial and an impartial judge are fundamental human rights, and it is therefore important that any infringements of these rights with regard to Ukrainian citizens are pursued under national law. There is however a risk of a backlash effect, with this new law being used to punish people who were part of Ukraine's institutional system prior to the crisis. With regard to this possibility, can the Vice-President/High Representative clarify whether her discussions with the new Ukrainian Government have included the issue of rights associated with justice, in order to prevent convictions of a political rather than a judicial nature?