

Question for written answer E-009947/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - Towards the annexation of Abkhazia and Russian expansion in the Black Sea region

In August 2008 the Russian Federation attacked Georgia. The stance taken by the late President Lech Kaczyński made it possible for the Russian tanks to be stopped before they took Tbilisi. The European Union was involved in resolving the conflict. The resulting peace agreement, which was hard for Georgia to accept, has been violated by Russia on numerous occasions. On 24 November 2014 Moscow and the Georgian region of Abkhazia signed an alliance and strategic partnership agreement. That agreement amounts to a de facto annexation of the territory concerned. Once again Russia is violating the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, breaking international law and failing to uphold its international obligations. This shows that Russia is continuing its expansion into the Black Sea region following its annexation of Crimea. The European Union is also on the receiving end of Russian aggression: Crimea and Abkhazia were annexed because Ukraine and Georgia signed association agreements with the EU. With this in mind:

1. How does the High Representative intend to stop Russia's illegal and aggressive expansion into the Black Sea region, which is an extremely important sea area for EU countries?
2. In the light of Russia's openly aggressive policy towards the EU's Black Sea partners (Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova), what is the High Representative's position on the South Stream gas pipeline project?