

Question for written answer E-007241/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR) and Marek Jurek (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - EU cooperation with Russia on military airlift

The EU and NATO rely on a Russian-managed heavy airlift company to support their expeditionary military and humanitarian relief operations. The contract with Ruslan SALIS GmbH – a joint venture between Russia's Volga-Dnepr and Ukraine's Antonov – was signed in 2006 when the state of relations between the EU and Russia was radically different. According to the media, it was recently extended in the midst of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, despite NATO's decision to suspend cooperation with Russia, and the sanctions imposed by the EU. Experts are critical of the cooperation of EU Member States with the Volga-Dnepr Group in the current context, pointing to the risks it poses to the EU's military capabilities and security, and suggest disentangling the Russian company from the SALIS programme while enforcing cooperation with Ukraine's Antonov.

1. Could the VP/HR confirm that the contract has been renewed?
2. Is the VP/HR aware of these criticisms, and what is her assessment of them?
3. Is the VP/HR considering calling for the EU Member States to reject cooperation with Ruslan SALIS?