

**Question for written answer E-004446/2019**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID)**

**Subject:** Start of Russia-Ukraine negotiations for an agreement on the situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions: what is Europe's contribution?

On 9 December 2019, initial meetings were held in Paris between the Russian President, Putin, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Zelensky, in the presence of President Macron and Chancellor Merkel; the aim was to hold talks with a view to reaching an agreement on the 'ceasefire' in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions (Donbas), where, since 2014, there has been a conflict that has hitherto resulted in 13 000 casualties.

Following the failure of the Minsk-1 Protocol of 5 September 2014, signed under the auspices of the OSCE, and the failure of the Minsk-2 Protocol of 11 February 2015, again overseen by the OSCE, negotiations are being reopened in order to find a common solution on the issue of the Donbas.

In view of the above, can the Vice-President/High Representative say:

1. how he intends to contribute to the success of the negotiations on the situation in the Donbas;
2. whether he agrees with the recent statements by President Macron that there is a need to establish a strategic dialogue with Russia?