

**Question for written answer E-003849/2020**

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

Rule 138

**Elżbieta Kruk (ECR)**

**Subject:** Pressure from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to recover black boxes and wreckage

10 April 2020 was the tenth anniversary of the Smolensk tragedy. 96 people died in the disaster involving a Polish military aircraft, including: President of the Republic of Poland Lech Kaczyński and his wife Maria, the last President of the Republic of Poland in exile Ryszard Kaczorowski, the Deputy Marshals of the Sejm and Senate, 18 Members of Parliament, commanders of all the armed forces of the Republic of Poland, staff from the President's Office, heads of state institutions, members of the clergy, representatives of ministries, veterans' and social organisations, and the flight crew.

They were part of the Polish delegation travelling to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

We still need to find out the truth about what happened. Right from the start we were fed incorrect information, lies and even false evidence. Everyone is aware of the disinformation methods used by the Kremlin.

To this day, Russia has failed to provide Poland with the most important evidence in this matter, including the black boxes and the wreckage.

In March and June 2015, Parliament called on Russia 'to immediately return the wreckage and all the black boxes from the Polish Government aircraft which crashed at Smolensk' and urged 'all the EU institutions to make these requests as part of their bilateral contacts with the Russian authorities'.

1. What action has been taken by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to exert pressure internationally and recover the evidence?
2. What action does he plan to take in the near future on this matter?