

Question for written answer E-005350/2020

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

Rule 138

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Subject: EU position on Turkish-Azerbaijani military aggression against the Armenian people

On 29 September, Azerbaijan began a large-scale military offensive, first against the defensive lines of the Republic of Artsakh and then directly on Armenian territory. The offensive has already involved the use of military aircraft, drones and missiles, targeting residential buildings and resulting in numerous civilian casualties, amongst others.

Up to now, in respect of this event, the EU has limited itself to mild and neutral diplomatic condemnation, aimed not at the attackers but at both sides. Given also that Turkey has expressly supported Azerbaijan in these attacks by providing it with military assistance, including – according to the Armenian Government – through the recruitment of 4 000 Syrian Jihadists to support the Azerbaijani militias, can the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following questions:

1. Will the EU take specific action to protect the Armenian people, including those living in the Nagorno-Karabakh region? If so, what action will it take?
2. What action will it take with regard to Turkey, which is being funded by the Commission to speed up its process of integration into the EU, should its recruitment of Islamist terrorists for armed conflicts with other states be confirmed?
3. In the light of recent events, does the EU intend to change its position on the recognition of the Republic of Artsakh, and if so, how?