

Question for written answer E-005941/2020

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: Azerbaijan's attack on Artsakh

At least 45 people have been killed during the intense armed conflict between Azerbaijan and the Republic of Artsakh (also known as Nagorno-Karabakh), the latter supported by Armenia. The trigger for this violent conflict was Azerbaijan's attack on Artsakh, a de facto independent state which is predominantly Christian and ethnic Armenian. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan have declared martial law, and Armenia has announced full military mobilisation.

At the same time, Turkey's defence minister has stated that 'we will support our Azerbaijani brothers with all our means in their fight'. Meanwhile, Armenia and Artsakh have denounced the fact that Turkey has already dispatched mercenaries and military equipment to the region. The ongoing clashes raise concerns for a full-scale war between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

1. Does the EU intend to condemn Azerbaijan's aggressive attitude by imposing sanctions? By what means will it express its full support to Artsakh?
2. What measures is it willing to take in order to prevent the intervention of third parties (e.g. Turkey) and avoid escalating tension in the region?