

**Question for written answer E-006705/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Loucas Furlas (PPE)

Subject: Unspecified number of Armenians missing and being held captive in Artsakh

The Republic of Artsakh has come under heavy attack by Azerbaijan, which, with the support of Turkey, has targeted the Armenian civilian population and the country's infrastructure with the use of banned weapons, heavy artillery and air strikes. Armenia has been left to fight this battle on its own and forced to hand over important territories to Azerbaijan on which Armenian culture had developed for thousands of years.

Since the ceasefire, an unspecified number of Armenians missing and being held captive in Artsakh have not returned home. Thousands of relatives of those missing have taken to social media to try to find out what has happened to their loved ones, but without success. There are also ongoing reports that Armenian prisoners are being subjected to horrific torture, in violation of international conventions.

According to the ceasefire agreement, Baku was required to investigate the fate of those missing and held captive. However, to date, it has neither searched for those missing nor provided any relevant information.

In view of the above:

What action does the Commission intend to take to locate those missing? What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure the right to life of prisoners and put an immediate end to the torture to which they are subjected?