

Question for written answer E-000175/2022

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

Rule 138

Marco Zanni (ID), Anna Bonfrisco (ID), Susanna Ceccardi (ID)

Subject: Russo-Ukrainian conflict

In recent weeks, Russia has gradually deployed almost 100 000 troops in the Donbass region, a number that, according to a recent report published by the Washington Post, is expected to increase to 175 000. At the same time, Bloomberg is quoting US intelligence to the effect that the months of January and February may provide a strategic window of opportunity for a possible Russian attack.

Following his visit to Ukraine, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Borrell emphasised that the geopolitical landscape was changing very rapidly, adding, 'the conflict on the border with Ukraine is about to escalate'. Similarly, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg referred to a 'real' danger of conflict, reiterating that Russia had so far done nothing to encourage any hopes of détente.

In view of this:

1. Can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say what support will be given to Ukraine in the event of any Russian military action?
2. Has the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy already considered ways of managing a possible Ukrainian refugee influx in the EU or drafted a plan of humanitarian aid and protection for beleaguered civilians?
3. What will be the role of the EU Member States bordering Ukraine in possible medium to long-term crisis management?