

**Question for written answer E-003285/2022
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: EU sanctions against Azerbaijan following its aggression against Armenia

On 13 September 2022, Azerbaijan, with the support of Turkey, renewed hostilities in the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave. To date, 135 Armenian soldiers have been killed, contrasting with 75 Azerbaijani losses.

What is more, with politicians and the media complicit in their silence, Azerbaijan has demonstrated unspeakable barbarism towards the Armenian population. Anush Apetyan, an Armenian soldier, was tortured to death by Azerbaijani soldiers. She was raped, her fingers and legs were cut off and her eyes were gouged out. All of this was filmed.

Last month, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen signed a memorandum of understanding with Ilham Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan, with a view to gaining access to the country's natural gas reserves and making up for the reduction in the supply of Russian gas to Europe.

Since we are sanctioning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, it would be inconceivable to apply a double standard faced with the Azerbaijani invasion.

1. Does the Council condemn Azerbaijan for its invasion of Nagorno-Karabakh and for its barbaric actions?
2. Will the Council decide to impose sanctions on Azerbaijan, and to stop accepting Azerbaijani gas, as was the case with Russia? If not, does the Council consider this aggression to be less significant than that for which it has rebuked Russia, and, if so, on what grounds?