

Question for written answer E-000405/2023

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 action to stop Azerbaijan's blockade of the Lachin corridor

The Lachin corridor is a strategic link between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh. Since 12 December 2022, the Lachin corridor has been blocked by self-proclaimed environmentalists from Azerbaijan protesting the alleged illegal mining of natural resources. This blockade has caused a shortage of essential goods and services, including food, fuel and medication for more than 120 000 people.

This situation is in violation of the ceasefire agreement of 9 November 2020 in which Azerbaijan pledged to ensure the safety of people, vehicles and goods moving through the Lachin corridor.

Moreover, the EU recently established a common security and defence policy civilian mission in Armenia with the intention of contributing to stability along the country's border and helping normalisation efforts with Azerbaijan.¹

In the light of Parliament's recent resolution on the humanitarian consequences of the blockade in Nagorno-Karabakh²:

1. What actions is the European External Action Service taking to push Azerbaijan to reopen the Lachin corridor and allow humanitarian access to Artsakh?
2. How will the new EU civilian mission to Armenia ensure respect for the terms established by the trilateral agreement of 9 November 2020, including keeping the Lachin corridor open?

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¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/01/23/armenia-eu-sets-up-a-civilian-mission-to-ensure-security-in-conflict-affected-and-border-areas/>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/RC-9-2023-0075_EN.html.