

**Question for written answer E-002731/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Mathilde Androuët (ID)**

**Subject:** What EU initiatives can help prevent a humanitarian disaster in Nagorno-Karabakh?

In his answer to our question on support for Armenia after further bloody aggression by Azerbaijan in September 2022, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell stated that the EU was continuing its efforts to bring about a comprehensive settlement to the conflict<sup>1</sup>. He referred in particular to the deployment of the EUMCAP<sup>2</sup>. That mission ended in December<sup>3</sup>. In January, the European Council agreed to set up the EUMA<sup>4</sup> with the aim of helping to stabilise border areas and normalise relations between the two countries<sup>5</sup>. Since July, however, and despite its promises, the Azerbaijani Government has refused entry to humanitarian convoys<sup>6</sup>. For nine months now, the 120 000 Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh have been suffering from shortages of food and medical supplies.

An EU spokesperson<sup>7</sup>, like the Azerbaijani dictatorship and Turkish President Erdoğan, has condemned the democratic presidential elections held by the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh on 9 September. Bearing that in mind, what steps does the Commission intend to take to provide specific assistance to Armenians who are under threat in the region, in spite of the recent gas deal that Azerbaijan and the EU have concluded<sup>8</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> E-003415/2022(ASW)

<sup>2</sup> EU monitoring capacity in Armenia.

<sup>3</sup> 'Arménie: la capacité d'observation de l'UE achève son mandat, une nouvelle équipe de planification est lancée' – 19.12.2022.

<sup>4</sup> Civilian EU mission in Armenia.

<sup>5</sup> 'Armenia: l'UE met en place une mission civile pour contribuer à la stabilité dans les zones frontalières' – 26.1.2023 – Agence News Press.

<sup>6</sup> 'Entre l'Arménie et l'Azerbaïdjan, pourquoi le Haut-Karabakh frôle la catastrophe humanitaire' – 8.9.2023 – Huffington Post.

<sup>7</sup> 'Azerbaijan: Statement by the spokesperson on the so-called elections in the formation Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Oblast' – 9.9.2023 – European Union External Action.

<sup>8</sup> 'Exclusive: Von der Leyen flying to Baku to seal gas deal with Azerbaijan' – 15.7.2022 – EU Reporter.