

**Question for written answer E-003600/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy**

Rule 138

Anna Fotyga (ECR)

Subject: The International Committee of the Red Cross's selectivity and inaction towards victims of particular conflicts and regimes

The primary goal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Red Crescent Movement is to alleviate human suffering, protect human life and health, uphold dignity, especially in armed conflicts and emergency situations, and to facilitate the exchange of prisoners and release of hostages. Unfortunately, the ICRC doesn't fulfil its mission in many cases, raising serious concerns about the influence of particular actors.

The ICRC has taken no action to improve the fate of the Israeli hostages abducted by Hamas, to secure their release or support their families. Furthermore, the ICRC is completely failing to fulfill its mission in Belarus. The dramatic situation of approximately 1 500 political prisoners of the Lukashenko regime, some of whom have already died in prison, is rapidly deteriorating while the ICRC fails to act. Moreover, the Belarusian Red Cross Society lost all credibility when its Secretary-General Dmitry Shevtsov openly supported Russian aggression against Ukraine, making scandalous statements about nuclear weapons and deportations of Ukrainian children.

1. Does the EU intend to put Dmitry Shevtsov on the sanctions list, as the USA did¹?
2. Is the VP/HR trying to put pressure on the ICRC, which should be an impartial and independent organisation, to fulfill its mission, including in Belarus and the Israel-Hamas conflict?
3. How does the VP/HR envisage future cooperation with ICRC?

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¹ <https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20231205>.