

Question for written answer E-000742/2024

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

Rule 138

Hilde Vautmans (Renew)

Subject: Pro-Russian separatists in Transnistria

Separatists in Transnistria, a pro-Russian region in Moldova, have adopted a resolution calling for 'protection' from Russia against alleged pressure from Moldova. It is not clear exactly what they expect from Russia. Russia has responded by saying that protecting the people of Transnistria is a priority. This situation is reminiscent of the situation in eastern Ukraine in 2022, when Russia used the protection of Russian minorities as an argument for invasion. The Moldovan authorities have dismissed the resolution as propaganda. The conflict in Transnistria arose with the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the region seceded from Moldova. This led to a brief war in 1992. Moldova, which has a pro-European government, fears this will drag it into conflict and accuses Transnistrian factions of instigating war.

1. What is the Vice-President / High Representative's assessment of recent developments in Transnistria, where separatist authorities have asked Russia for 'protection' from Moldova?
2. What possible consequences does the Vice-President / High Representative see for stability in Moldova and in the region?
3. What role is the European Union playing to prevent a possible conflict in Transnistria?

Submitted: 7.3.2024