

**Question for oral answer O-000146/2013
to the Council**

Rule 115

Krzysztof Lisek, Inese Vaidere

on behalf of the PPE Group

Subject: Russia's illegal activities along the occupation line in Georgia

During the past several months, the installation of artificial obstacles along the occupation line in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia has increased rapidly and has become extremely aggressive. Since 17 September 2013, the Russian occupation forces have resumed the installation of barbed wire fences and ditches along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali Region, especially in the villages of Ditsi and Dvani, Gori district and Dvani, Kareli District, as well as along the occupation line in the Georgian region of Abkhazia. The area of occupied territories has expanded by several hundred meters at the cost of Georgian controlled land. These activities violate Georgia's territorial integrity, significantly challenge stability and security in these regions and create significant problems for residents on either side of the occupation lines. Citizens' freedom of movement is totally restricted since their houses and farmlands are divided by the barbed wire fences and they are unable to access farmland, schools, emergency medical services, cemeteries, irrigation and portable water supply systems. Citizens do not have the right to be educated in their native language or to participate in elections, and their other political, economic, cultural and social rights are restricted. The citizens of the affected territories are forced to leave places of permanent residence and become Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

Given the recent developments, the Council is asked to answer the following questions:

1. What is the current position of the Council with regard to the situation detailed above?
2. What measures has the Council taken thus far and what measures does it intend to take to intensify talks between the European Union and the Russian Federation, with the aim of ensuring that the latter honours unconditionally all the provisions of the cease-fire agreement of 12 August 2008 between the Russian Federation and Georgia, in particular the provision stating that Russia must guarantee the EUMM full and unlimited access to the occupied territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, and of highlighting the need to provide stability in the aforementioned regions of Georgia?
3. What other measures does the Council intend to take in response to the Russian Federation's illegal activities along the occupation line in Georgia?

Tabled: 17.12.2013

Forwarded: 18.12.2013

Deadline for reply: 8.1.2014