

**Question for written answer P-007443/2012
to the Commission
Rule 117
Paweł Robert Kowal (ECR)**

Subject: Occupation of Georgian territory by Russia

After the 2008 war, Russia intensified its military presence in Georgia, in defiance of the direct call contained in the Six-Point Ceasefire Agreement of August 2008 for the withdrawal of Russian military forces to the positions held prior to the outbreak of hostilities. It has implemented logistical, military and fortification measures to establish 'state borders' for the regime in Abkhazia. According to information provided by the Mission of Georgia to the EU, the closure of these 'borders' and the subsequent restrictions on the freedom of movement are making life increasingly difficult for the population residing on both sides of the occupation line. Many families are separated by the occupation. The demarcation of the 'borders' has also restricted movement across the occupation lines, including humanitarian aid.

Furthermore, prior to 2008, Russian military personnel were limited to CIS peacekeeping levels: 500 (plus 300 reserves) in South Ossetia, and a further 2 500 to 3 000 in Abkhazia. Currently, there are 10 000 Russian soldiers stationed in occupied Georgia.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission: what measures it has taken recently to counteract the situation described above. Does the Commission plan to recognise the status of Georgia as a country under partial occupation, just as the European Parliament, NATO, the Council of Europe and the Community of Democracies have done?