

Question for written answer P-001961/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Mirja Vehkaperä (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - EU policy on the Arctic and the successor to the Special Advisor/Ambassador at Large for the Arctic

In September 2017 the VP/HR and the European External Action Service appointed Marie-Anne Coninx as the first EU Special Advisor/Ambassador at Large for the Arctic. This can be seen as clear recognition of the growing overall importance of the Arctic for the EU as a whole.

The Special Advisor has enhanced the visibility and coherence of EU policies and actions on the Arctic and Northern cooperation, as highlighted in the EU Global Strategy. Given that the EU has a strategic interest in the Arctic and wants to ensure that it remains a zone of constructive and peaceful cooperation, the Special Advisor has contributed to cooperation and dialogue with Arctic partners and non-Arctic actors with a view to identifying common positions and solutions.

It has come to our knowledge that the current ambassador will retire this autumn.

1. Can the VP/HR confirm that there will be continuity in Ms Coninx's post? Will a new Special Advisor/Arctic Ambassador be appointed?
2. Given the increasing importance of the Arctic in several regional and multilateral policy sectors, how will Arctic and Northern matters be dealt with in the EEAS in the future?
3. Given the importance of these issues, how will sufficient resources for addressing them be ensured?