

Priority question for written answer P-001151/2023
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy
Rule 138
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)

Subject: Deployment of Russian tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus

On 25 March 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus this summer. This announcement alone, even if it is not accompanied by concrete action, fundamentally undermines the security of the European continent. Russia's deliberate escalation of tensions makes its diplomatic representation in Europe increasingly pointless. This is all the more so given that, since 2022, there has been a tendency towards an increase in the number of withdrawals of Russian diplomats from EU Member States because of their hostile actions and activities contrary to their diplomatic status and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Could the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union answer the following questions?

1. What is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union's assessment of Vladimir Putin's statement on the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons?
2. What specific responses are envisaged?
3. Would the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union be prepared to propose the reduction of Russia's diplomatic representation in Europe to the Member States?

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