

**Question for written answer E-003089/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Protecting the Italian-speaking community in Crimea

In these times of heightened tension in the Crimean peninsula, all the concerns of the small Italian community in Crimea are surfacing. This community is made up of between 300 and 500 descendants of those Italian families that were subjected to ethnic cleansing and deportation in the Soviet gulags of Central Asia following the October Revolution, in 1942 in particular.

This is a small community which was established around the start of the 19th century during the Tsarist period, casualty of a forgotten martyrdom, which is now living in fear of falling victim to the tensions and the potential civil war in Crimea.

We would therefore like to ask the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy the following questions:

1. Is she aware of the situation?
2. Does she intend, in conjunction with the Italian authorities, to take up the issue of the protection of this Italian-speaking minority with the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Russia and the new government of Ukraine.