

**Question for written answer E-002298/2016  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Spanish Government consent to Russian warships using Ceuta's port facilities

In 2011 Russia started to regularly use the port facilities at Ceuta (owned by the public entity Puertos del Estado). Since then, at least 57 Russian Navy ships have called into the Spanish port<sup>1</sup>, including destroyers, frigates, amphibious assault ships, and even an attack submarine.

Some of the visits by the Russian Navy have curious timing. For example, during the same week in April 2014 that the EU announced a new round of sanctions against Russia, Spain was hosting at Ceuta the Russian destroyer Vice-Admiral Kulakov, and two navy tankers, the Dubna and Sergey Osipov.

One of the most recent visits was made by the Russian submarine Novorossiysk, en route to its base in the Black Sea.

Taking into account that the EU has imposed 'restrictive measures' on Russia owing to its involvement in Ukraine's civil war and the annexation of Crimea:

Is the VP/HR aware of this ongoing operation between Spain and Russia which helps Russia to maintain its positions in the Black Sea and the conflict in Ukraine?

Does the VP/HR consider Spain's military cooperation with Russia to be in accordance with the restrictive measures imposed on the Russian Federation?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://thf\\_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2015/pdf/RussianNavyCeutaVisits.pdf](http://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/2015/pdf/RussianNavyCeutaVisits.pdf)