

**Question for written answer E-007864/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Refusal of VP/HR to meet with the 2017 Sakharov Prize laureates

The Venezuelan opposition, as laureates of the 2017 Sakharov Prize, were present in Strasbourg for the awards ceremony, during the plenary session of December 2017.

Naturally, they were received and greeted by various several representatives of the European institutions, including President Tajani as well as various group leaders.

It has come to our attention however that the VP/HR refused to meet them and delegated this meeting to her chief of staff instead.

We believe this is intolerable for both the European Parliament, which awards the prize, and for the Venezuelan opposition.

Is the Commission aware of this fact? What image does the Commission believe this lack of deference will project about the European institutions to the external world?