

Question for written answer E-001666/2025

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)

Subject: The rule of law in Azerbaijan ahead of the visit by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to Baku

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, is making a surprise visit to Azerbaijan on 25 April, without however announcing the agenda for the talks with President Ilham Aliyev. According to international observers, Baku has recently been drastically restricting freedom of expression, violently suppressing peaceful demonstrations.¹ The authorities have carried out mass arrests of opposition figures. Dozens of citizens remain in politically motivated detention. Journalists and activists are in prison after show trials.²

Furthermore, following the 2023 military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh, over 100,000 Armenians - almost the entire Armenian population of the region - became refugees in Armenia amid a severe humanitarian crisis.³ It is recalled that the European Parliament has recognised the Armenian Genocide,⁴ which is commemorated today, 24 April, and Europe must prevent similar incidents in the future.

The Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is therefore asked:

1. What is the agenda and content of the EU's discussions with a ruler who is internationally accused of ongoing violations of the rights of his citizens?
2. Will the issue of the rule of law and human rights be raised and in what terms?
3. What does the European Commission intend to do about the major issue of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is affecting the - Europe-friendly - people of Armenia?

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¹ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/azerbaijan>

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-human-rights-situation_en

³ <https://pace.coe.int/en/files/33145/html>

⁴ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2015-0094_EL.html.