

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002950/24**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
**Pierre-Romain Thionnet (PfE)**  
(15 December 2024)

*Subject:* Vice-President/High Representative respecting the prerogatives of her post

On 18 May 2024, during the round table on ‘Keeping Up Support to Ukraine — Defining as Long as It Takes?’ organised as part of the Lennart Meri Conference, Kaja Kallas, then Prime Minister of Estonia, said when speaking about EU-Russia relations, ‘Russia’s defeat is not a bad thing, because then there could be really a change in society. There are many different nations that are right now part of Russia. If you would have more small nations, it’s not a bad thing, if the big power is much smaller’.

Ms Kallas has just started her new role as Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the prerogatives of which are laid down in Article 18(2) of the Treaty on European Union.

Does this statement constitute one of the VP/HR’s current political projects, or is it outdated and she withdraws it in her new role?

Submitted: 15.12.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission**  
(19 March 2025)

The EU’s approach to Russia is clear and has been implemented in strong unity since the beginning of Russia’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and its citizens.

Its main elements are: supporting Ukraine, isolating Russia internationally, imposing sanctions against Russia to further limit Russia’s ability to wage war, ensuring accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia’s war of aggression, supporting EU’s neighbours and partners, defending the rules-based international order, enhancing EU’s resilience and supporting Russia’s civil society, independent media and human rights defenders.

As outlined by the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Russia, Mariana Katzarova, Russia’s external aggression and internal repression are closely linked <sup>(1)</sup>.

The EU will continue to call on Russian authorities to abide by their international obligations both with respect to Russia’s international relations and human rights of all its citizens.

Russia must unconditionally cease its illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, withdraw its troops from the internationally recognised territory of Ukraine as well as pay for the damage caused.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5759-situation-human-rights-russian-federation-report-special>;  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc5454-situation-human-rights-russian-federation-report-special>