

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-001660/25**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
**Gerolf Annemans (P/E)**  
*(24 April 2025)*

*Subject:* Visit to Azerbaijan by the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

At a time when the Armenian Genocide is being commemorated, and there are continuing tensions and border disputes between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) is visiting Baku on 25 April.

President Ilham Aliyev has threatened the EU Mission in Armenia in the past and seems to care little about EU criticism. It nonetheless appears that the VP/HR is planning the visit in order to achieve short-term energy gains, disregarding the rule of law and international law in the process.

1. Why is the VP/HR choosing this precise juncture to visit the regime that is threatening her own mission when she is not going to Armenia at the same time?
2. Will the VP/HR, in Azerbaijan, raise the criticism voiced by Parliament in its resolution of 13 March 2025 on the unlawful detention and sham trials of Armenian hostages, including high-ranking political representatives from Nagorno-Karabakh, by Azerbaijan?
3. Will the VP/HR convey the message that the memorandum of understanding on a Strategic Partnership in the Field of Energy will be suspended as long as Azerbaijan remains deaf to the EU's concerns?

Submitted: 24.4.2025

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

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) visited Baku on 25 April 2025 for meetings with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan and members of civil society.

The discussions touched upon EU-Azerbaijan relations, human rights, regional cooperation and the Armenia-Azerbaijan normalisation process.

During her exchanges in Baku, the HR/VP emphasised that EU-Azerbaijan relations have a potential to grow based on mutual respect, including respect for Member States, and fundamental principles, including the respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The HR/VP reiterated the EU's strong support for the normalisation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia. She welcomed the recent agreement on the text of a draft peace treaty and called for keeping this momentum and ensuring smooth completion of this process.

The EU has closely followed the issue of Karabakh Armenian detainees held in Azerbaijan and continues to call on Azerbaijan to respect due process and the rights of detainees and to ensure transparency. The EU has also advocated addressing these issues as part of confidence-building measures between the parties.

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