

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-002471/25**  
**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**  
**Victor Negrescu (S&D)**  
*(18 June 2025)*

*Subject:* Physical aggression towards an EU diplomat in Russia and protection measures for EU personnel

According to information in the international media which has been confirmed by the Commission's spokesperson, an employee of the Delegation of the EU to the Russian Federation was physically attacked in Vladivostok at the end of May 2025 during an official mission. According to diplomatic sources, the attack was carried out by persons associated, or suspected of being affiliated, with the Russian security services.

This unprecedentedly serious incident is an unacceptable escalation of the systematic harassment to which European diplomats are subjected in the Russian Federation. This act not only constitutes a flagrant breach of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, but also endangers the safety of European diplomats and directly affects the EU's ability to maintain a minimal level of institutional dialogue with Russia.

1. What concrete measures have been taken to protect the Romanian diplomat, or are being planned to guarantee the safety of EU diplomats in Russia and other high-risk regions?
2. What official steps have been taken vis-à-vis the Russian authorities in the wake of this serious incident, and what have been the outcomes of the discussions with Russia?
3. Is the European Union prepared to reassess the level of its diplomatic presence in Russia and take firm action, including sanctions, if no credible guarantees of respect for the status of EU personnel are given?

Submitted: 18.6.2025

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

The EU diplomat in question has been provided with all essential support and smoothly evacuated from the Russian Federation and will not return to Moscow.

To ensure a proper duty of care of its staff, evacuation level 1 has been applied in the EU Delegation in the Russian Federation since the start of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

It allows voluntary withdrawal of non-essential staff and dependants from the place of assignment. The remaining staff is provided with tailor-made security instructions and training.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) maintains a network of regional security officers in the EU delegations to assess security risks and to propose appropriate preventing and mitigating measures to ensure security of the staff.

Where necessary, in the high-risk areas, the staff is provided with special means and equipment (e.g., armoured vehicles, radio communication equipment, personal protective equipment etc.) and has to follow strict travel clearance procedure for missions.

The EU has summoned the representative of Russia to the EU and has carried out a demarche in Moscow, in which it demands from the Russian authorities a thorough investigation and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

Up to now, no official feedback has been received from the Russian authorities. The EEAS will monitor the progress and the outcome of the investigation launched by the Russian law-enforcement agencies.

Since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU maintains a very limited engagement with Russia. Currently, the EEAS is reflecting upon the measures to take towards the Russian Federation. Restrictive measures are taken by the Council at unanimity.

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