

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000267/26

to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Markéta Gregorová (Verts/ALE), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Dainius Žalimas (Renew), Rihards Kols (ECR), Marie Toussaint (Verts/ALE), Tonino Picula (S&D), Helmut Brandstätter (Renew), Krzysztof Brejza (PPE), Thomas Waitz (Verts/ALE), Cecilia Strada (S&D), Anna Stürgh (Renew), Virginijus Sinkevičius (Verts/ALE), Jan Farský (PPE), Nathalie Loiseau (Renew), Rasa Juknevičienė (PPE), Sebastian Everding (The Left), Miriam Lexmann (PPE), Rasmus Nordqvist (Verts/ALE), Petras Auštrevičius (Renew), Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)

(23 January 2026)

Subject: Alleged use of chemical agent on protesters in Georgia in 2024

Investigative reporting by the BBC World Service suggests that Georgian law enforcement authorities used a chemical agent during the dispersal of peaceful protests in Tbilisi in late 2024. According to experts cited in the investigation, the substance used may correspond to ‘camite’, raising serious concerns about possible violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international human rights law. If confirmed, this would represent the first alleged use of such an agent against civilians in Europe since the First World War.

The EU’s repeated statements, warnings and diplomatic engagement have proven ineffective. The Russia-aligned ruling authorities in Georgia continue to intensify repression, restrict fundamental freedoms and use disproportionate force against protesters, further worsening the human rights situation.

In the light of these developments:

1. What is the Commission’s assessment of the credibility of the BBC investigation and the allegations that have been raised?
2. What additional measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure accountability and prevent further escalation?
3. What is the Commission’s assessment of the compatibility of this situation with Georgia’s EU candidate status, and does it consider that more decisive steps are now required?

Submitted: 23.1.2026

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission

(1 April 2026)

The EU has strongly condemned ⁽¹⁾ the violence against peaceful protesters that took place at the end of 2024 and consistently urged the Georgian authorities to respect, protect and uphold the human rights of peaceful protesters.

The enlargement reports of 2024 and 2025 ⁽²⁾ expressed deep concerns on the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of crowd control measures by law enforcement bodies, as well as persisting reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment of those participating in protests.

The failure of national investigations to bring those committing acts of violence to justice shows serious deficiencies in the justice system and underscores its lack of independence and credibility.

Reports suggesting that chemicals were used in water cannons during demonstrations must be properly and independently investigated. While the EU does not have a dedicated mechanism to investigate the use of chemical weapons, it actively supports and cooperates ⁽³⁾ with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which holds the mandate to carry out any potential assessments.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/extracts-georgia-conclusions-council_en?s=221;
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/georgia-statement-spokesperson-developments-georgia_en?s=221.

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/georgia-report-2024_en; https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/georgia-report-2025_en.

⁽³⁾ The OPCW has consistently received support from the EU through the Common Foreign and Security Policy budget since 2004, currently amounting to a total of EUR 51.4 million.