

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-004829/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(4 December 2025)

Subject: Alleged use of banned chemical weapons against Georgian protesters

Recent reports from the BBC allege that Georgian riot police may have deployed Bromobenzyl Cyanide (also known as Camite) against peaceful protesters in November and December 2024. It is a World War I era chemical weapon that is banned under international law. Protesters reported severe and lasting health effects, including respiratory issues, skin burns and vomiting. Civil society groups, including the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, previously demanded transparency regarding police use of chemical agents, but the authorities have refused to provide clarity and have reportedly targeted witnesses instead of investigating evidence.

Given these allegations:

1. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy consider the possible use of banned chemical agents against civilians a breach of international law, including the Chemical Weapons Convention?
2. Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy call for an independent international investigation to establish accountability and ensure protection of human rights in Georgia?

Such actions, if confirmed, raise serious concerns regarding human rights, the rule of law and international norms.

Submitted: 5.12.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 January 2026)

The EU has strongly condemned 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.

In its 2024 ⁽¹⁾ and 2025 ⁽²⁾ enlargement reports on Georgia, the Commission has expressed deep concerns regarding the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of crowd control measures by law enforcement bodies, as well as about persisting reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment of protest participants.

That investigations launched by the Special Investigation Service, which has now been abolished, have failed to bring perpetrators of violence to justice exposes serious deficiencies in the justice system and underscores its lack of independence and credibility, fostering an environment of impunity.

The latest information regarding the use of chemicals in water cannons during those protests, including Georgian official acknowledgments in this regard, as well as media reports alleging that military grade chemical substances have been used, raise serious concerns and need to be thoroughly examined by the appropriate organisations.

While the EU does not have a dedicated mechanism to investigate the use of chemical weapons, it actively supports and cooperates with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which holds the mandate to carry out any potential assessments.

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 46.9 million ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/georgia-report-2024_en.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/news/2025/12/european-union-contributes-eur-445-million-support-opcw-missions>.