

Question for written answer E-016058/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Nikos Androulakis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Communist Party of Ukraine banned

In April of 2015, the Ukrainian Parliament voted to ban 'the propaganda of totalitarian regimes', equating Communism with the Nazi regime.

In response to my previous question (E-006050-15), the Commission indicated that 'the EU closely follows the political developments in Ukraine, including the legislative steps that may impact on democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We are assessing the content and implications of the laws referred to by the Honourable Member and are discussing these issues both with Ukraine and with the Council of Europe'.

On Wednesday 16 December, a Ukrainian court ruled in favour of a move by the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice to ban the activities of the Communist Party of Ukraine. This was strongly condemned by Amnesty International as a flagrant violation of freedom of expression.

A basic precondition for the Association Agreement and the provision of macro-financial assistance is respect by Ukraine for democratic institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, the rule of law and human rights.

In view of this:

- Can the High Representative say whether the ban is in line with basic EU tenets and principles?
- What measures will she take to ensure the proper functioning of a multi-party parliamentary system, the rule of law and freedom of expression?