

**Question for written answer E-014845/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Marlene Mizzi (S&D)

Subject: Immediate release of Bolatbek Blyalov, a human rights activist from Kazakhstan

According to Human Rights Watch, the Kazakhstan police detained the human rights activist Bolatbek Blyalov in Astana on 9 November 2015 on suspicion of 'inciting social discord' On 11 November, an Astana court confirmed a two-month pretrial detention order for the activist.

Mr Blyalov is the third activist in Kazakhstan to have been arrested in the past month on suspicion of 'inciting social, national, clan, racial, class or religious discord', a vague and unduly broad criminal offence, during a crackdown on outspoken government critics.

Can the Commission clarify what measures the EU will take with regard to the immediate release of Mr Blyalov since freedom of opinion, expression and association are basic rights protected by international treaties to which Kazakhstan is a party and should not be violated?