

*Tuesday, 22 October 2013-Strasbourg*

*Debate*

**Pino Arlacchi:** Dear President, Commissioner Füle,

I am a strong believer in EU neighbour policy.

This policy is the future of the European project and it should continue to be characterized by the European spirit at its best.

I mean tolerance, dialogue and leading by example.

We should never see this policy degraded in a patronizing, neo colonial endeavour.

We are not carrying out an exercise of hostility and competition against Russia.

We are not playing a repetition of the great game of two centuries ago.

Because Russia is also Europe and it is not a threat

Our inspirers, our fathers are not Mackinder an Brzezinsky, but Schuman and Spinelli.

[ [source:www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu) ]