

**Question for written answer E-008057/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Joëlle Bergeron (EFDD)

Subject: VP/HR - Apostasy and the death penalty in Saudi Arabia

According to the website of the Belgian daily De Standaard, the Saudi public affairs minister has published a newspaper advertisement seeking to recruit eight executioners to deal with the increasing number of death penalties being meted out in the country.

Saudi Arabia adheres strictly to Sharia law. Anyone found guilty of arms or drugs trafficking or murder is beheaded.

Apostasy is also punishable by death.

The European Commission, in the person of its First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, recently condemned Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán for having publicly mooted the restoration of the death penalty in his country.

Saudi Arabia is an ally of the West.

Has the High Representative voiced her disapproval of the barbaric executions practised in Saudi Arabia?

Does the High Representative not feel that the EU should impose sanctions on a country where apostasy is punishable by death?