

**Question for written answer E-010697/2015  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - GCC-EU human rights cooperation

The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) – EU Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting held on 24 May 2015 stated that 'Ministers looked forward to further cooperation in [...] human rights'. Furthermore, the European External Action Service (EEAS) stated on 28 May to the members of the Arab Peninsula Delegation of the European Parliament that a working group on human rights was under way, without giving any further details. However, Parliament was not informed and remains unaware of the nature and content of the EU-GCC human rights working groups.

To 'further cooperation in human rights' does the VP/HR intend to discuss this issue at ministerial level, given that in creating human rights working groups at a technical level, ministerial meetings are able to avoid discussing human rights altogether?

Will Parliament be briefed ahead of such meetings by the EEAS, knowing that informal human rights working groups offer neither parliamentary oversight nor proper consultations with local and international human rights organisations?