

**Question for written answer E-003160/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - The role of women's rights in EU-Iran relations

The Iranian authorities have approved the introduction of a new unit of the Morality Police (Ershad), which work undercover and spy on women's behaviour and the clothing they wear. In 2013, the Morality Police –part of the Revolutionary Guard– issued warnings to three million women and brought charges against 18 000.

This measure is another step backwards for women's rights in Iran, as I already stated, along with fellow MEPs, in the written question E-008038-15 that criticised bills No 446 and No 315, which imposed strict limits on women's freedoms.

This week's visit to Iran of a delegation of eight members of the Commission, including the Vice-President, would also be an opportune time to promote human rights in bilateral relations. I would therefore like to ask the VP/HR:

1. Is the aforementioned measure a step backwards for women's rights in Iran?
2. Does she believe that it is appropriate to demand, in the relevant fora, that Iran resign from its position on the Executive Board of UN Women?
3. Bearing in mind the answer to written question E-008038-15, how have the Iranian authorities responded to the questions on women's rights and are they allowing the United Nations Special Rapporteur entry into Iran?