

Question for written answer E-004700/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Jean Lambert (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - (I)NGO law in Pakistan

The fifth EU-Pakistan Political Counter-Terrorism Dialogue was held on 20 April 2016 in Brussels under the framework of the EU-Pakistan Five-Year Engagement Plan. Given that Pakistan has very recently introduced new registration and regulatory measures regarding (I)NGOs, which is contributing to a slow-down in, and increasing restrictions on, their work:

1. Has the over-regulation of (I)NGOs emanating from the National Action Plan to counter terrorism in Pakistan been raised during the dialogue, and has the Commission expressed its concerns that blanket regulation of (I)NGOs may undermine the positive role they play in countering violent extremism in Pakistani society?
2. Have the delays in processing (I)NGO requests for authorisation as a result of regulation affected any EU-funded organisations/projects in Pakistan?
3. What use is being made by the Commission of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-2019, which contains specific references to counter-terrorism policies and human rights, in the dialogue?