Question for written answer E-006884/2016 to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative) Rule 130 Hilde Vautmans (ALDE) and Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Israel targets Broederlijk Delen, Brigitte Herremans

On Friday, 9 September 2016, Brigitte Herremans landed in Tel Aviv with the intention of accompanying a group of young people on a familiarisation visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories. The immigration service in Tel Aviv let the group through, but Ms Herremans herself was questioned for three hours. In the end she had to spend the night in a cell, and next day she had to return to Belgium. She is now regarded as a threat to public security and public policy, and will not be permitted to enter Israel for the next 10 years.

For more than 15 years, Broederlijk Delen, together with the Flanders branch of Pax Christi, has been working to help bring about a lasting peace in Israel and Palestine. They support Israeli and Palestinian human rights and peace organisations which are working for change on the ground.

Can the VP/HR raise this issue with her Israeli counterparts and ask them to reverse this decision?

How many other European NGOs have been or are being treated in this way? What is the European Union's response to this?

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