

**Question for written answer E-003434/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Doru-Claudian Frunzulică (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Mauritania

On 28 April 2017, two women, Marie Foray and Tiphaine Gosse, were summoned to the offices of the Directorate-General for National Security (DGSN) of Mauritania in the country's capital, Nouakchott. Following their meeting with a representative of the DGSN, Ms Foray and Ms Gosse were declared personae non gratae and asked to leave the country within five days. That same representative is also reported to have declared that 'there is no slavery in Mauritania'.

Will the VP/HR initiate talks with the Government of Mauritania in order to ensure that it:

- puts an end to all forms of harassment against human rights defenders in Mauritania so that they can lead their human rights activities freely and unhindered?
- guarantees the physical and psychological integrity of all human rights defenders in Mauritania in all circumstances?
- complies with the provisions of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9 December 1998, in particular Articles 1, 5, 6 and 12.2 thereof?