

**Question for written answer E-005032/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Barbara Matera (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Political parties in Hong Kong

The Government of Hong Kong recently banned the Hong Kong National Party from politics for its stance in favour of independence from China, citing defence of national security. Affiliation with the party could mean time in jail and a fine. This comes at a time when Hong Kong is experiencing ever greater encroachment by the Chinese Government.

What can the VP/HR do to support the right of Hong Kong people to speak freely?

What can she do to support Hong Kong in retaining semi-autonomy honoured by China?