

**Question for written answer E-005156/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Francisco Assis (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Cancellation of visas to same-sex partners of foreign diplomats in the USA

On 2 October, the US administration announced the cancellation of diplomatic visas for same-sex partners of foreign diplomats and UN officials, reversing a 2009 provision that was designed to protect them from the prohibitions on same-sex marriages in most countries of the world. If their marriages are not formalised by the end of the year, they will lose their visas and be expelled from the country. Besides the cruelty of this decision and the gross discrimination that it constitutes, it ignores the fact that some of these people originate from countries where this type of marriage is criminalised, exposing them to very serious risks which could even have a negative effect on the operations of some diplomatic missions. This decision is in the same vein as other equally deplorable decisions, such as the ban on military service by transsexuals, resulting in a clear regression in respect of human and civil rights.

Given the privileged relationship between the EU and the US, and given that both communities have historically shared the same democratic values and commitment to human rights, will the EU condemn this step backwards and seek to encourage the authorities to rethink their decision?