

**Question for written answer E-001249/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

**Patricija Šulin (PPE), Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE), Marijana Petir (PPE), Pina Picierno (S&D) and
Heinz K. Becker (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - EU sharing common values with Lebanon

Following her visit to Lebanon in February 2019, the VP/HR published an official statement emphasising that the EU and Lebanon have a 'partnership based on common values and shared interests'.

According to a recent study by Human Rights Watch, women still face discrimination under 15 separate religion-based personal status laws, and both child marriage and marital rape remain legal in Lebanon. Unlike men, Lebanese women cannot pass their citizenship to their children or foreign spouses, and children with disabilities are often denied admission to schools. In addition to the deplorable situation of women's rights in Lebanon, the Lebanese authorities continue to prosecute individuals for peaceful speech, police and soldiers have beaten protesters, and detainees continue to report torture by the security forces.

1. Could the VP/HR specify if, in her view, these findings fall within the 'common values' shared by the EU and Lebanon?
2. How can the VP/HR speak of 'common values' while the Lebanese Government contains an organisation like Hezbollah, which supports terrorism?