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Answer given by Vice-President Borrell  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(23.12.2019)

Work and exchanges with and on Hong Kong are presently focussing on deescalation and calls for dialogue in response to the current crisis. The EU will continue to call for the respect of human rights and fundamental values and remains firmly committed to uphold freedom of expression in Hong Kong within the principle of the “one country, two systems”.

The EU is concerned by the deterioration in respect of press freedom that is reflected in Hong Kong’s declining position in the World Press Freedom Index (slipping to 73<sup>rd</sup> position in 2019). The EU Office in Hong Kong is in close and regular contact with civil society and the press on the issue and concerns will be addressed in the forthcoming Annual Report to the European Parliament on Hong Kong. In addition, civil society in Hong Kong is eligible for support under the European Instrument for Human Rights and Democracy (EIDHR).