

**Question for written answer P-001946/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Request for a clarification of the human rights clause in Article 2 of the EU's Association Agreement with Israel

The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part, constitutes the legal basis currently governing relations between the EU and the State of Israel.

Respect for democratic principles and fundamental rights is a fundamental element of all association agreements concluded by the EU.

Article 2 of the Association Agreement with Israel explicitly states that: 'Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.'

This human rights clause differs, both in its wording and its scope, from similar clauses in association agreements with other countries. Tellingly, it is the only EU Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement that does not refer to specific rights.

In view of the above, will the Vice-President / High Representative say:

What is the reason for the vagueness of Article 2 of the association agreement in question?

Can she specify what are the rights referred to in Article 2 above?

If not, will she carry out a legal study to determine whether any of the contracting parties violates the human rights referred to in Article 2 of the association agreement?