

Question for written answer E-000811/2020

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Chinese interference in the succession of the Dalai Lama

In recent years, the Chinese Government has on several occasions made clear its intention to intervene in the reincarnation of the Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama. This position not only ignores the Tibetans' centuries-long history of selecting the Dalai Lama without foreign interference, but also violates their fundamental right to religious freedom, including their right to select their religious teachers and leaders according to their traditional religious customs.

In reaction, the Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2019 was introduced in the US Congress, stating that the appointment of a future Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist leaders can only be decided by the Tibetan Buddhist faith community. The Dutch and Belgian ¹ Ministers of Foreign Affairs share this view.

What is the position of the European Union on the issue of the succession of the Dalai Lama?

What concrete measures does the EU intend to take in order to address this issue?

¹ <https://www.lachambre.be/doc/CCRI/pdf/55/ic091.pdf>