

**Question for written answer E-006363/2012
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

Barry Madlener (NI)

Subject: VP/HR - High Representative Ashton's congratulations to the new President of Egypt

1. How can the VP/HR speak about 'peaceful' elections¹ when, inter alia, a pregnant woman was beaten to death by her husband for failing to vote for Mohammed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood²?
2. What is the VP/HR's view of the future of relations between Egypt and Israel, bearing in mind that the new President of Egypt, Mursi, likes to find fault with Israel and that one of the leaders of Hamas – a terrorist organisation according to the EU³ – has also spoken of 'a historic moment and a new era in Egypt's history'⁴?
3. How does the VP/HR explain her statement that she looks forward to working with Mursi, while the Egyptian President wishes to seek closer ties with Iran⁵? Furthermore, how does the VP/HR explain the fact that Mursi is undermining the EU sanctions⁶ in this way?
4. How many more human rights will need to be violated in Egypt before the VP/HR ceases to maintain relations with Egypt?

¹ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/131145.pdf

² <http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/06/24/222413.html>

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:023:0037:0042:NL:PDF>

⁴ <http://www.limburger.nl/article/20120624/ANPNIEUWS02/306249779/1321>

⁵ <http://www.elsevier.nl/web/Nieuws/Buitenland/342326/Nieuwe-president-Egypte-wil-banden-aanhalen-met-Iran.htm>

⁶ <http://www.nu.nl/buitenland/2770632/eu-verscherpt-sancties-iran.html>