

**Question for written answer E-002913/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 117
Jean-Jacob Bicep (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Fundamental rights in Tibet

On 14 December 2012, Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, issued a declaration (17831/1/12 – PRESSE 535) on the tragic situation in Tibet. This declaration echoed the European Parliament resolution of 14 June 2012, which called on the EU Special Representative for Human Rights to report regularly on the human rights situation in Tibet and urged the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to appoint a special coordinator with a mandate to report regularly on Tibet.

In December 2012, deeply concerned by the increasing number of Tibetans committing self-immolation (a particularly alarming situation with 107 self-immolations since 2009), Baroness Ashton expressed her concerns about curbs on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Tibetan people. In this regard, she called upon the Chinese authorities to respect the rights of Tibetans to assembly and expression and to release political prisoners detained solely for taking part in peaceful demonstrations. The High Representative also urged the Chinese authorities to allow free access to all Tibetan autonomous areas for diplomats as well as for international journalists.

In view of the tragic political situation in Tibet and given that it does not seem to have improved since last December, can the Commission say what action has been taken following this declaration?

Is there a plan to send a mission to Tibet to report on the fundamental rights situation there, for instance? Is the appointment of a special coordinator in progress? Has the situation of the Tibetan people been regularly raised at the various meetings with the representatives of the People's Republic of China? How does the High Representative intend to deal with the situation in Tibet?