

**Question for written answer E-000959/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Richard Seeber (PPE)**

Subject: Deprivation of citizenship for people of foreign descent in the Dominican Republic

According to the UN Refugee Agency (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), since 2010 a new constitution has been applicable in the Dominican Republic, which states that only people who were born in the Dominican Republic and have at least one Dominican parent can acquire Dominican citizenship.

On 23 September 2013, the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic gave a decision that confirmed this, and consequently any person of foreign descent who was born between 1929 and 2010 in the national territory of the Dominican Republic and does not have at least one Dominican parent is being deprived of citizenship.

Pursuant to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, which, with the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, gained the same legally binding force as the treaties, the European Union takes the view that human rights are universal and indivisible.

The EU actively campaigns for the promotion and defence of human rights both within its borders and in its dealings with non-EU countries.

This discriminatory amendment to the constitution of the Dominican Republic, which disadvantages more than 200 000 people, is very alarming.

1. What steps is the Commission considering in order to take action against this human rights violation in the Dominican Republic?
2. Have there been any bilateral talks between the Dominican Republic and the EU on this subject as yet, and if so, what has been the outcome of these talks?
3. The IACHR has criticised this decision and called for the citizenship of the people affected to be restored. Will the Commission lend its weight to this recommendation?