

**Question for written answer E-013291/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Richard Howitt (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - The use of the death penalty for drugs offences

The European Union has repeatedly stated its commitment to ending use of the death penalty worldwide, with the Vice President / High Representative Ms Mogherini stating this year 'The EU is opposed to capital punishment in all cases and without exception, and has consistently called for its universal abolition. The death penalty is a cruel and inhumane punishment, which fails to act as a deterrent and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.'

Under Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the use of the death penalty must be limited to only the most serious crimes, but the last 12 months have seen a global resurgence in the use of the death penalty for drug offences with a number of states executing people for drug-related crimes at a significantly increased rate.

European states and the European Commission have given more than EUR 60 million's worth of support to anti-drug raids in countries which aggressively pursue the death penalty for drug offences, including Iran and Pakistan.

With reference to the above points:

What does the Vice President / High Representative plan to do to ensure that European support for overseas drug operations does not lead to death sentences and executions, given her clear opposition to the use of the death penalty for drugs offences?