

**Question for written answer E-002335/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

Daniele Viotti (S&D), Sophia in 't Veld (ALDE), Ian Duncan (ECR), Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE) and Tanja Fajon (S&D)

Subject: VP/HR - Support for and visibility of Pride marches and other public LGBTI events

Visibility for the LGBTI movement is important for advancing the rights of, and building greater recognition for, the LGBTI community. In this regard, however, 2016 was a year of mixed success and failure in upholding the right to freedom of assembly.

According to the EU's Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by LGBTI persons, the EU institutions are obliged to 'publicly support, including, as appropriate, participation in, the exercise of freedom of assembly and expression (e.g., public events, "pride marches")'. In practice, however, the engagement of the EU institutions, and of EU delegations in third countries, with Pride marches and other public events has been inconsistent, and visibility limited.

1. Can the EEAS elaborate on the role of EU delegations in supporting and attending Pride marches?
2. In past years, the EEAS has invited delegations to raise the rainbow flag on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. This is a great initiative which we hope will also be taken up by the Commission within the EU. However, only a few delegations have done so. Is there scope for making the request a requirement, with exceptions for delegations in countries where such actions would be illegal?