

Question for written answer E-000805/2018
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Heidi Hautala (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - 14th EU-India Summit held on 6 October 2017 in New Delhi

In her reply of 17 November 2017 to a letter from a group of MEPs concerning caste-based discrimination in view of the 14th EU-India Summit, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, noted, equally on behalf of the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, and the President of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, that non-discrimination, with a particular focus in India on caste-based discrimination, is a cross-cutting issue in most EU-funded projects, and assured the signatories that the EU will continue to raise caste issues in the bilateral political dialogue.

The VP/HR also stated that Presidents Tusk and Juncker discussed human rights with Prime Minister Modi.

1. Did the VP/HR express concern during the 14th Summit to the Indian representatives about the persistent discrimination against the Dalit community, and Dalit women in particular, urging India to take steps to put an end to all abuses against Dalits?
2. Does the VP/HR accept that progress in negotiating any future free trade agreement with India should be conditional on India taking steps to effectively tackle discrimination against Dalits?